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Assad welcoming Khaddafi on arrival at Damascus airport. (Reuter wirephoto)

Last-ditch bid to persuade Assad

Khaddafi in Syria; Benjedid stays away

BAGHDAD, May 26, (Agencies): Arab leaders started arriving here today for an extraordinary Arab summit slated to open May 28.

The first to arrive were Sudanese military leader Gen. Omar Ahmed Hassan Al Bashir and the presidents of Mauritania, Somalia and Djibouti, Maawiya Ould Sidi Ahmed Al Tayeb, Mohammed Siad Barre and Hassan Gouli.

The leaders were received at the airport by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his top aides in the government and the ruling Baath Party.

Officials said most Arab heads of state are expected tomorrow a day before the opening of the summit by the PLO to discuss emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and other threats to Arab security.

Eighteen Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation are taking part in the summit which is boycotted by Syria and Lebanon.

North and South Yemen, after their official merger May 26, are attending as one delegation.

Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi, on his way to the summit stopped over in Damascus today in an attempt to persuade Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to attend.

Arab diplomatic sources said Khaddafi was making a last-ditch effort to persuade Assad to attend.



Whites protest

A pro-apartheid demonstrator protests against South African President F.W. de Klerk's talks with nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, during a rally yesterday attended by about 100,000 people at the Voortrekker Monument, outside Pretoria. (Reuter wirephoto)

(See Page 5)

Second Iraq note to Iran

Defence council meets

NICOSIA, May 26, (AP): Iran's Supreme Council of Defence met today to discuss a second letter sent by Iraq in correspondence between the two foes aimed at reviving stalled peace talks.

Tebran television, monitored in Nicosia, said the session was headed by President Hashemi Rafsanjani, and that all other members of the council were present.

Also attending the session were Iran's representatives at the United Nations offices in New York and Geneva, the television said.

The report was the first that Tebran had received a second letter from Baghdad. The television did not say when the letter was sent or received.

Earlier it was confirmed that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had sent an initial message to Tebran calling for revival of the deadlocked peace talks.

The television quoted Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Manouchehr Motaki as saying yesterday that Iran had given a "positive response" to Saddam's first letter and had agreed to resume stalled peace talks with Iraq.

The full contents of the correspondence between Tebran and Baghdad have not been disclosed.

But according to press reports in Tebran and Kuwait, Baghdad has called for bilateral talks, and conceded that the sovereignty of the Shatt Al Arab waterway is negotiable.

James Nduku said another person was killed and two buildings collapsed in the village of Lafan near Torit. He said many cattle, sheep and goats were also killed by landslide and rolling stones.

The source added that most of the calls are being conducted through the long-distance call division.

Apologising to its long-distance callers for this sudden malfunction, the ministry said that it will be repaired by the end of the week. (See Page 11)

Kuwait-India line cut

KUWAIT, May 26, (Kuna): A technical malfunction at the satellite station in Bombay had impaired the direct telephone line between Kuwait and India, an official source at the Communications Ministry said today.

Bor is 669 miles (1080 km) north of Khartoum and Torit is 793 miles (1280 km) north of Khartoum.

Earlier story Page 8

18 killed, 200 wounded in gun battle in Pakistan; police blame MQM

HYDERABAD, May 26, (AP): Security forces fought pitched battles today with residents of Hyderabad's oldest and poorest district, killing at least 18 people and wounding at least 200 police and witnesses said.

Police and doctors at a local hospital said they expected the death toll to rise as ambulances picked up bodies that lined the narrow streets of the old walled city, a maze of mud brick houses and shanties.

Police blamed the fighting on a militant faction of the Mohajir Quami Movement.

The MQM is demanding recognition as Pakistan's fifth nationality, along with the Punjabis, Pathans, Sindhis and Baluch.

Witnesses said today's battles erupted as security forces moved into the old city searching for weapons.

Residents, most of them Mohajirs, apparently thought rival Sindhi nationalists planned to attack and opened fire with automatic weapons, witnesses said. At least seven security troops were injured before returning fire, they said.

The gun battles, which continued for

more than two hours, caused authorities to cancel a scheduled two-hour temporary lifting of a curfew.

About 2,000 paramilitary troops, riot police and rangers have been patrolling the streets of Hyderabad, the second largest city in Sind, to try to contain the violence. Army-supervised curfews have become a way of life for the city's three million residents.

According to official count, at least 66 people have been killed and hundreds more wounded in ethnic violence and lawlessness.

Situation 'dangerous and explosive'



Arafat waves documents as he answers reporters questions at the UN in Geneva. (Reuter wirephoto)

'We've had enough'

Arafat calls for UN sanctions

GENEVA, May 26, (Agencies): The President of Palestine, Yasser Arafat, warned the international community today that Israel was preparing for its next war, and that the forthcoming Arab summit to Baghdad would prove a turning point in the history of Arab world.

In a hard-hitting address to a crowded international press corps, President Arafat said the patience of the Palest

inian people was running out in the face of continued repression and killings, which had shattered every aspect of the lives of the Palestinian people.

"We have had enough killings, enough torture. The tragic situation cannot continue any longer. We are running out of patience. The sufferings are beyond human endurance," Arafat said.

Arafat said the situation had become "dangerous and explosive" in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, which were occupied territories, where the law and order should be kept in accordance with the stipulations of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

"We are asking for protection of our people, seeking a permanent UN force for an interim period - until peace is achieved. We are seeking international protection against the crimes being perpetrated by Israel. We are seeking an end to our people's suffering," the Palestinian leader reiterated.

The intifada, Arafat maintained, will continue "for the sake of peace."

Elaborating on his observation that Israel was preparing for the next war in the Middle East, Arafat noted that only recently the Israeli military chief of staff had said that "we should reoccupy Lebanon."

■ Arafat urged the United Nations to impose sanctions against Israel if it continues to refuse all peace initiatives.

Speaking in an interview with Cable News Network (CNN) from Geneva, Arafat charged that Israel is disregarding all peace efforts because of continued American backing, especially economic and military aid.

■ Meanwhile, UN Security Council emergency session on the latest violence between Israelis and Arabs adjourned today, with Israel facing heightened pressure for its tough handling of unrest.

No action was taken at the meeting, which resumes Tuesday in New York. An Arab diplomat said a council decision could be "one week, two weeks" off.

Arab League Ambassador Clovis Makoud said the United States had tried to launch the idea in Geneva of sending an international fact-finding mission to the occupied territories, but backed off today under Israeli pressure.

The US State Department earlier said it was ready to discuss having the Security Council send a temporary fact-finding mission to the occupied lands.

That put Washington publicly at odds with Israel, which said it would bar any observer team.

■ Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir says UN observers will not be allowed in the Israeli-occupied territories. Even a visit from the UN secretary-general might not be welcome, the Foreign Ministry added.



Princess Stephanie of Monaco is kissed by her fiance Jean-Yves La Fai as they enjoy the time trials for the Monaco Grand Prix from the balcony of an apartment yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Monopoly of power renounced

BELGRADE, May 26, (AP): Yugoslavia's deeply split Communist Party ended a national congress today by calling for multi-party elections and formally renouncing its monopoly on power.

Nevertheless, the delegates approved a statement waiving the party's leading role in society and calling for free federal elections.

Earlier story Page 8

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'Coup fears help curb Philippine growth'

MANILA, May 26. (Reuters): Coup rumours that deter investors are helping to stunt economic growth in the Philippines, already battling a drought and electric power shortages, a government minister says.

"We cannot deny that persistent rumours of another coup send negative signals in the market that tend to under-

mine our growth prospects," Secretary of Economic Planning Cayetano Paderanga told a committee probing a coup attempt last December.

President Corazon Aquino has quelled six army uprisings since she took power in a popular revolt in 1986.

A recent upsurge of political violence in the capital has fanned stock market fears

of a serious setback in economic growth, sending shares into a tailspin for the sixth month.

On Friday, two more Philippine soldiers were killed in the second ambush on military men in Manila in three days.

Paderanga said yesterday a growth projection in gross national product this

year had been scaled back to five per cent from an earlier forecast of six per cent, mainly because of high interest rates, a widening trade gap and frequent power outages.

He said the economy was not headed towards a recession, as some investors speculated.



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Lawyer testifies Swiss accounts

Imelda's trial



NEW YORK, May 26. (AP): Imelda Marcos reportedly met recently with a lawyer hired to fight the Philippine government's effort to seize billions of dollars she and her late husband allegedly stashed in Swiss banks, a witness testified yesterday.

Sergio Salvioni, a lawyer representing the government in Manila, told a court jury he was told of the New York meeting by Bruno Depreux, who he said had identified himself as representing Mrs Marcos, the former Philippine first lady.

"He said he met Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos in Honolulu two times and he met Imelda Marcos one time here in the Continental United States," Salvioni said. "The last time was more or less two to three weeks ago, here in New York."

Under questioning by assistant US attorney Charles LaBella, Salvioni quoted Depreux as saying he originally was hired to represent both Mrs Marcos and her husband after Marcos' ouster as president of the Philippines in early 1986. Marcos died last year in Hawaiian exile.

"And now he represents Mrs Marcos and her heirs," Salvioni said.

Mrs Marcos is accused of having helped her husband steal more than \$220 million from their country's treasury, using the money to support a luxury lifestyle and investment including four secretly purchased New York office buildings.

Salvioni, a member of the Swiss Parliament, flew to New York from Geneva to testify. Prosecutors hoped he would help

prove the Marcoses use secret accounts in at least eight Swiss banks to hold some of the embezzled funds during Marcos' 20-year reign.

US District Court Judge John F. Keenan allowed Salvioni to testify before jurors on certain details after rejecting defence protests that his information would be "explosive and prejudicial" to Mrs Marcos.

Keenan turned aside defence arguments that Salvioni's remarks quoting Depreux were "hearsay" and therefore inadmissible, but barred any references to actual details of the bank accounts.

Mrs Marcos, wearing her customary black, showed no visible emotion as the Swiss lawyer explained the efforts by President Corazon Aquino's government to gain access to the Swiss accounts.

Reds hit

Attack near Clark

MANILA, May 26. (UPI): Suspected communist hitmen fired on a jeep, killing a Filipino woman but leaving the Australian driver unharmed in the US Clark Air Base hours before travel restrictions were eased today for US troops, police said.

Meanwhile, officials announced the deployment of an additional force of 3,000 troops in the capital following a spate of ambushes and grenade attacks that left 10 people dead in the last five days.

"We have now here a breakdown of law and order," said Maj. Gen. Cesar Nazareno, chief of the national police, after meeting with his commanders to assess the security situation in Metropolitan Manila. "I want this anti-terrorist group operational by Monday," he said.

Police said Thomas Brian of Rosebud, Melbourne, and his Filipino girlfriend, Judith Ochiai, 25, were driving along MacArthur highway outside Clark, 50 miles (80 km) north of Manila, at 11 pm yesterday when four men stopped their vehicle.

Upon noticing that the men were armed, Brian stepped on the gas and ducked but the men opened fire, hitting Ochiai in several parts of the head and body and killing her, police said. Brian escaped unharmed, they said.

Police said Brian might have been mistaken for an American by the gunmen believed to be communist rebels.

The attack came hours before officials at Clark and Sase Bay naval station relaxed travel restrictions for some 40,000 US servicemen, their dependents and Defence Department personnel.

Beginning today Americans were allowed in the entertainment districts outside the bases from 7 am to 7 pm.

After airmen John H. Raven, 19, of Delta Junction, Alaska and James C. Green, 20, of Craig, Colorado were killed May 13, US officials cancelled all leaves and liberty for Americans stationed in the Philippines.

The communist New People's Army (NPA) has claimed responsibility for the slayings of Raven and Green and vowed to continue attacking Americans until Washington dismantles its military bases in the Philippines.

Police also said Australian and British bar owners have been placed on the NPA hit list for allegedly acting as conduits for American money to fund pro-base rallies in the liberty cities of Angeles and Olongapo.

Authorities arrested a communist rebel who admitted involvement in the ambush-slaying of a coastguard colonel three days ago, officials said today.

Capital command chief Brig. Gen. Mariano Filart identified the suspect as Louie Mendoza, 25, a member of the guerrilla hit squad operating in the capital, who was arrested last night in Manila's Paco district.

Filart said Mendoza admitted he was one of those who planned the ambush of Col Reynaldo Dino, head of the constabulary personnel division, while the officer was being driven to work Wednesday in suburban Kalookan town.

Poverty-curing heads wanted

KAMPALA, May 26. (Reuters): Cobras and bald men — beware of fortune-hunters.

Word has spread in southwestern Uganda that their heads contain magic stones which bestow riches forever.

That was enough for some young men in the rural district of Rakai who went hunting the poverty-curing heads. Uganda's Catholic daily Munno reported today.

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Kathmandu march

Supporters of one faction of the Nepal Communist Party march in Kathmandu on Friday to demand the formation of a constitutional reform committee. The procession of

about 1,000 demonstrators later met with other faction members in a mass meeting of several thousand people. (Reuter wirephoto)

Nepal to get Chinese arms

KATHMANDU, May 26. (UPI): Nepal, a nation locked by two Asian giants, will receive a fresh consignment of Chinese arms despite objections from its other neighbour India, a senior official said today.

"Some percentage of arms will be arriving shortly. India is aware of this," the official told United Press International. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the arms would include assault rifles and anti-aircraft guns.

The arms are a part of an agreement between Nepal's previous government headed by King Birendra and

China.

The arms agreement angered the Indian government which said Nepal's decision to buy Chinese arms violated the India-Nepal treaty of 1965. Indian objections in part led to India's economic embargo against Nepal in March last year causing enormous hardship and shortages.

Hopes for an improvement in India-Nepal relations were raised with the formation last month of Nepal's first multiparty government in 29 years. The new government, which marked the near-end of King Birendra's absolute powers, offered to resolve Nepal's differences with India.

However, the arrival of Chinese arms may stir ill feelings again, especially as interim government Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai prepares to visit New Delhi next month.

Bhattarai will go to India to resolve the trade dispute which has resulted in a 15-month economic blockade of Nepal.

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After airmen John

Elvis committed suicide: biographer

NEW YORK, May 26, (AP): A controversial biographer who stunned Elvis Presley fans in 1981 with revelations about the drug habits of the rock 'n' roll king now says Presley committed suicide with a huge drug overdose.

"It's the dream gone to nightmare. It's perfect. It's archetypal rags to riches to rot story," writer Albert Goldman said yesterday as the presses were rolling on a Life magazine article in which he makes the claims.

The story is getting prominent display in the June issue.

"Thirteen years after the death of Elvis Presley new evidence points to an inescapable conclusion. Suicide," reads a copy of the article, which was released in advance to reporters.

A private autopsy conducted following Presley's death in August 1977 put the cause of death as a heart attack.

Graceland, Presley's mansion, did not return a telephone call yesterday seeking comment on Goldman's claims.

Goldman stunned and infuriated millions of Presley fans around the world with his 1981 biography, "Elvis," which

portrayed the king as an obese, impotent drug addict incapable of taking care of himself.

Later, an unflattering Goldman book on the late John Lennon had the same effect on his fans.

Goldman had written in "Elvis" that the singer died of an accidental overdose.

But his conversations with David Stanley, Elvis' stepbrother and a fixture at Graceland, convinced Goldman that Presley had actually killed himself.

Stanley, one of the first people to see Elvis dead, says he knew all along it was

suicide but had trouble accepting it.

"Several things convinced me... He was too intelligent to overdose. He knew the PDR -- Physicians' Desk Reference -- inside and out," Stanley said yesterday at a New York news conference.

The PDR is a standard reference book on the effects of various medicines.

The day he died, Elvis had consumed three packets of assorted drugs at once along with some Codeine; the doses were usually spread out over eight hours, Stanley said.

Battle over embryos

Husband against donation

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee, May 26, (AP): A woman's decision to donate seven frozen embryos she won in a custody fight, rather than use them to become pregnant, does not end the battle, her husband said yesterday.

"I am totally against it," Junior Lewis Davis, who produced the sperm for the embryos, said of his ex-wife's decision to donate them to another childless couple.

"There is just no way I am going to donate them," Davis said.

"I feel that's my right. If there was a child from them, then I would be a parent to it. And I don't want a child out there to be mine if I can't be a parent to it."

Davis, 31, and his ex-wife, Mary Sue Davis Stowe, 29, have been locked in a legal battle over the four-to-eight-cell embryos conceived through in vitro fertilisation in 1988 while they were still married.

In the only contested issue in their divorce, Blount County circuit Judge W. Dale Young ruled in September that temporary custody of the embryos should go to Mrs Stowe, who at the time said she wanted to try to bring a child to term.

The judge, taking the unprecedented step of ruling that "life begins at conception," accorded the embryos the same rights as children. He said it would be in the embryos' best interests to be with Mrs Stowe.

Davis has appealed the decision, which touched

off a nation-wide debate on its impact on reproductive rights. The Tennessee court of appeals scheduled oral arguments for June 6.

Mrs Stowe, who agreed she would not try to become pregnant with the embryos until the case is settled, filed a response Thursday to Davis' appeal.

In it, her attorney Kurt Erlenbach wrote that if the court rules in her favour "her intention... is not to implant the embryos. She wants authority to donate the embryos to another childless couple may use them."

"If faced with the options of implantation or destruction through non-use, (Mrs Stowe) would strongly argue for the right to implant the embryos," Erlenbach's brief said.

The former Mrs Davis seeks in this case only to preserve what she has created while Davis seeks to destroy the potential for life he very willingly and intentionally created."

But Davis said, "that was very willingly and intentionally only on the grounds of marriage in trying to produce a child."

"They need to be disposed of. In my view, they are not life, I realize they are the potential for life, no matter how small the percentage of successful pregnancy is. But they are not life."

Davis said his position has nothing to do with concern over my potential legal obligations to children born from the embryos. "It's really that it is my right to decide if I want to become a parent," he said.

More than a perfume, a jewel...



USS Iowa sabotage ruled out

Congressional investigators announced Friday that independent tests did not support a navy finding that sabotage caused the 1988 explosion that killed 47 sailors aboard the USS Iowa.

The congressional report, which came a day after the navy re-opened its investigation, said the explosion could have resulted from gunpowder bags being rammed inside the ship's guns at "higher than normal speeds."

The report was presented to the Senate Armed Services Committee by the General Accounting Office, which investigated the navy's controversial finding that gunner's mate Clayton Hartwig probably sabotaged the battleship in the library said yesterday.

Raissa Gorbachev will visit the Library of Congress next Thursday during the superpower summit to formally open an exhibit of historic Russian manuscripts, the library said yesterday.

Among the 200 others expected to attend the reception are Vice-President Dan Quayle's wife, Marilyn and Sen. Claiborne Pell.

First Lady Barbara Bush may also attend.

Mrs Gorbachev will be shown some American artifacts, including letters written by George Washington, and will get a demonstration of the library's computer data collection system and a look at the library's main reading room.

BEVERLY HILLS, California, May 26, (AP): Two brothers charged with the shotgun slayings of their affluent parents wailed hysterically in an emergency telephone call reporting the murders.

The recording was made after the Aug. 20, slaying of multi-millionaire entertainment executive Jose Menendez and wife, Kitty.

It was released after news media attorneys obtained a court order requiring that it be made public.

The emotional two-minute call appears to have been made by the slain couple's elder son, Lyle 22, who has been charged with his brother, Erik, 19, in the murders. Prosecutors say greed was the motive.

Superior court judge James

Albracht ordered the audio tape release, along with a videotape documenting a police search of the home of the Menendez brothers' psychologist.

But psychologist Jerome Oziel on Thursday won an emergency appellate court stay blocking release of the videotape.

"I believe that release of the search warrant videotape... would be a complete violation of my family's constitutional right to privacy," Oziel said.

The court of appeal asked for written arguments on the matter by May 29.

The brothers' defense counsel opposed the release of the audio tape but did not appeal it.

It recorded dispatchers trying to calm down a sobbing, screaming man and determine what happened.

The pilot was the only occupant of the plane, and his condition was unknown, public affairs officer Dee Tait said.

"We heard the explosion; it was a helluva explosion," said Martha White, owner of the Country Kitchen restaurant near the crash site.

Killer sobbed in emergency call

Parents murder case

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Mrs Gorbachev will be shown some American artifacts, including letters written by George Washington, and will get a demonstration of the library's computer data collection system and a look at the library's main reading room.

BEVERLY HILLS, California, May 26, (AP): Two brothers charged with the shotgun slayings of their affluent parents wailed hysterically in an emergency telephone call reporting the murders.

The recording was made after the Aug. 20, slaying of multi-millionaire entertainment executive Jose Menendez and wife, Kitty.

It was released after news media attorneys obtained a court order requiring that it be made public.

The emotional two-minute call appears to have been made by the slain couple's elder son, Lyle 22, who has been charged with his brother, Erik, 19, in the murders. Prosecutors say greed was the motive.

Superior court judge James

Albracht ordered the audio tape release, along with a videotape documenting a police search of the home of the Menendez brothers' psychologist.

But psychologist Jerome Oziel on Thursday won an emergency emergency appellate court stay blocking release of the videotape.

"I believe that release of the search warrant videotape... would be a complete violation of my family's constitutional right to privacy," Oziel said.

The court of appeal asked for written arguments on the matter by May 29.

The brothers' defense counsel opposed the release of the audio tape but did not appeal it.

It recorded dispatchers trying to calm down a sobbing, screaming man and determine what happened.

The pilot was the only occupant of the plane, and his condition was unknown, public affairs officer Dee Tait said.

"We heard the explosion; it was a helluva explosion," said Martha White, owner of the Country Kitchen restaurant near the crash site.

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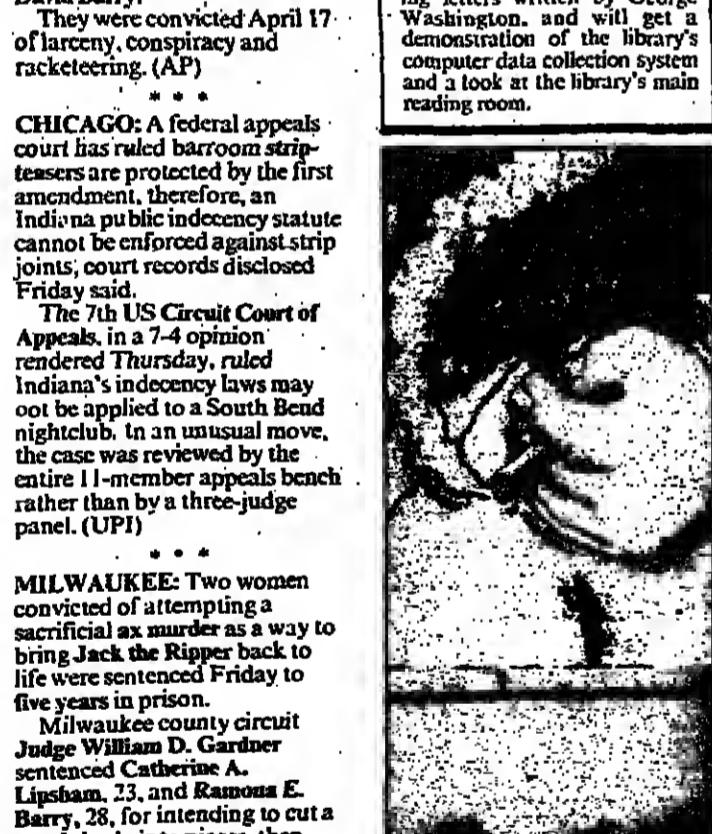
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WASHINGTON: Scientists have discovered that sea turtles use a unique compass, relying on the Earth's magnetic field and wave motion to find their way as they swim the seas, the National Science Foundation reported on Friday.

The turtles accomplish epic navigational feats, travelling up to 1,000 miles (1,600 km) or more between feeding and nesting sites; how they are able to do so has long mystified researchers. (Reuters)

GLENDALE, California: Actor Vivian Tayback, who played Mel the crusty diner owner of the old Alice television series, died at home of a heart attack Friday. His agent said. He was 60.

Tayback, who has had a history of heart trouble, including triple bypass surgery in 1983, died in his sleep, said his agent and friend of 30 years, Fred Ansley.

Rescue workers took Tayback to Glendale Adventist Hospital but there was no chance of reviving him, he said.

CHARLESTON, South Carolina: Each year at this time, Charleston throws a city-wide celebration of the arts known as the Spoleto Festival USA. But this season, the festival, one of the most ambitious in its 14-year history, takes on added importance. It is showing the

Wave of bombings kill 27 in Colombia

Two days prior to presidential elections

BOGOTA, Colombia, May 26, (AP): A wave of bombings and murders in the cocaine capital Medellin two days prior to presidential elections has claimed 27 lives and injured 27 people, police said yesterday.

As pre-election carnage grew worse, a leading presidential candidate proposed that cocaine be legalised in the United States and other countries.

The candidate, Alvaro Gomez, said legalisation would wrest profits from the drug traffickers who use the money to terrorise Colombia.

"The legalisation of cocaine in the world would resolve the problem in Colombia," Gomez told foreign reporters at a news conference in Bogota yesterday morning.

Gomez is a centre-right candidate for the National Salvation

Government officials say powerful drug lords are stepping up their terror attacks to scare people away from the polls on Sunday.

Military and police vigilance has been stepped up to cope with the seemingly endless nightmare of violence.

All public schools and most private schools were closed yesterday in Bogota for fear of bombings.

Five bodies, with hands and feet bound, were found yesterday on a highway in southeast Medellin, the police spokesman said. The police were not able to identify the victims.

A 44-pound (20 kg) bomb exploded yesterday morning at an office building in a wealthy Medellin neighbourhood, she said. Three people were hurt and nearby apartments and stores were damaged.

On Thursday, a powerful car bomb blew up at a police post outside the luxurious Intercontinental Hotel, killing five people and injuring 22, police said.

Eight bombs have exploded in Colombia in the last two weeks killing 34 people and injuring more than 320.

The spokeswoman said unidentified assassins stormed a Medellin office Thursday night, shooting dead three men and two women.

That same night four people were murdered in northeast Medellin in yet another multiple homicide, she said.

She added that a policewoman was shot dead on her way to work early yesterday morning. Six policemen have been killed in Medellin since Thursday, three of whom died in the blast near the Intercontinental Hotel.

The Medellin cocaine cartel has offered \$4,300 for every police officer killed. So far this month 33 have been assassinated, police said.

Bogota is an armed camp. Military checkpoints line major streets and highways, and armoured personnel carriers mounted with machine guns patrol the cities. Soldiers are everywhere.

"I get nervous every time I walk by a parked car, thinking this could be the next one to blow up," said Gonzalo Pereira, an oil industry executive.

Pereira said he figures that by showing up when polls open at 8 am, the line will be short and he can vote in perhaps 15 minutes.

Most voting will take place at wooden sheds placed side by side



Members of the Colombian special elite force patrol a poor suburb in Bogota on May 25. (Reuter wirephoto)

Call for legalising cocaine

BOGOTA, May 26, (AP): A top presidential candidate said yesterday that the United States and other countries should legalise cocaine consumption to reduce drug-related violence in Colombia.

The candidate, Alvaro Gomez, said legalisation would deprive powerful drug lords of the profits they use to buy weapons to terrorise Colombia.

"The legalisation of cocaine in the world would resolve the problem in Colombia," Gomez said in a news conference in Bogota with foreign reporters.

He said legalisation would reduce the street price of cocaine, taking profits out of the business. Some Colombian traffickers have become multi-millionaires selling cocaine.

Gomez is a centre-right candidate for the National Salvation Movement. He broke away

from the Conservative Party earlier this year. He has been an unsuccessful candidate for president twice.

He said he would, if elected, invite a special United Nations body to mediate Colombia's drug war. The conflict has claimed the lives of some 300 people since last August.

Gomez said he would ask the UN body to analyse earlier offers by the drug traffickers to quit the cocaine trade in return for amnesty.

"We should invite them here so that they can determine the seriousness of the drug traffickers' proposals," he said.

The traffickers proposed peace in January, but they have since renewed their campaigns of bombing and assassinations, officials say.

along sidewalks and streets.

It is difficult to have a conversation with a Colombian these days without the subject getting around to bombs and other terrorist acts.

"The violence is keeping people away from public areas and overwhelmingly reducing their activities. It might also keep people at home for the elections," said Camilo Castellanos, a social scientist.

A low voter turnout that could wrest legitimacy from the winner may be exactly what the perpetrators of the violence are seeking in their campaign to des-

tabilise politics, officials say.

Terrorism — and the desire to stay clear of its indiscriminate attacks — is overshadowing major election issues such as constitutional reform and negotiations with leftist rebels.

Restaurant business at night is off sharply, said an American who owns one of Bogota's biggest restaurants and refused to be identified. People are scared of bombs, he said.

Soldiers forced their way into dozens of houses a week ago in search of bombs. The army says it had learned of a drug traffick-

ers plan to pack a house with tonnes of dynamite and set it off.

Cars entering parking lots at shopping centres and supermarkets are inspected for bombs.

Schoolchildren are being taught to take cover under desks in case of a bomb. Army officers are giving speeches to neighbourhood housing organisations on evacuation and disaster control.

Leftist guerrillas ambushed a police convoy yesterday and killed seven policemen who were to protect a southern Colombian polling station for Sunday's presidential elections, an army official said.

Fujimori, Llosa running close

Rebels force shoppers to loot stores

LIMA, May 26, (AP): Novelist Mario Vargas Llosa and fellow presidential contender Alberto Fujimori are running neck and neck in Lima, according to an independent poll published yesterday.

Poll results released earlier this week showed Fujimori, an agricultural engineer, leading in the poorer rural areas of this Andean nation.

But Vargas Llosa, a centre-right candidate, has slipped away at the lead held by this centrist opponent since the April 8 first round election. The two face each other in a runoff election June 10.

In other developments, rebels armed with machine guns and dynamite forced shoppers yesterday to loot two large stores in downtown Lima, police said.

Twenty guerrillas rounded up employees of a Monterrey department store and a Beta shoe store and ordered shoppers to take whatever they wanted from store shelves, police said.

The guerrillas, members of the Cuban-inspired Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, left five sticks of dynamite in front of one of the stores. They then disappeared into the streets filled with rush-hour crowds.

The latest poll survey showed Vargas Llosa getting 45 per cent support to Fujimori's 41 per cent in the metropolitan area of the capital. Fully 15 per cent of the respondents left blank ballots or were undecided.

The poll was conducted by the independent firm "Consultora 1-2 de Marketing". It was based on a survey of 412 people between May 19 and 22 and



Llosa left makes a campaign stop in San Juan de Miraflores in preparation for the upcoming run-off election. (Reuter wirephoto)

had a 5 per cent margin of error.

Vargas Llosa, meanwhile, stepped up his media campaign in the election's final stretch.

In a television broadcast Thursday night he introduced members of his team of advisers. Each spoke briefly on different programmes proposed by Vargas Llosa's Democratic Front coalition.

The 20-minute broadcast was carried by five of Peru's eight television channels.

In his address, Vargas Llosa promised to cool the country's hyperinflation to 10 per cent a year his first year in office. Inflation in the last 12 months reached 1,900 per cent.

Camarena has created a rift between the US and Mexican governments.

The testimony at a federal court hearing followed confirmation by the DEA in Washington that there had been a \$20,000 payment. DEA spokesman Frank Shultz called it payment for "services" and said it was not a reward or bounty.

The alleged kidnapping of Dr Humberto Alvarez Machain in Mexico and his delivery to US authorities to face charges across the border with the approval of DEA officials. A DEA official testified that a deputy director of the agency auth-

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Survey reveals China's sex life

HONG KONG, May 26. (AP): After a year of interviews to try to pry loose Chinese citizens' most intimate secrets about sex, surveyors say they have detected some changes in attitude in what long has been a prudish society.

Interviewers fanned out across the country nearly a year ago seeking not political confessions, but detailed accounts of what goes on inside Chinese bedrooms for an unprecedented survey on sex in the world's most populous nation.

The results are now in. They show that Chinese attitudes toward sex have liberalized in the past decade of openness to the outside world and that there is a great need for sex education to cope with the changes sweeping among the country's 1.2 billion people.

"I believe that Chinese concepts of sex are in a process of change," said Liu Daling, whose Shanghai Sex Sociological Research Centre conducted the survey. "We have broken through some of the old concepts, but not completely."

The June 4 military crackdown on dissent last year almost killed the survey before it got under way, as foreign investors withdrew funding and some leaders said the project's timing was inappropriate.

But Liu solved the funding crisis by dipping into his own savings. By August, hundreds of volunteers were interviewing married couples, students and sex criminals in 15 provinces.

Interviewers often faced resistance from a population not used to discussing details of their private lives.

"They didn't understand why someone would want to ask that kind of question: How many times do you have sex with your husband each month," Liu explained. "They'd say, 'why do you want to ask this? Are you kidding?'

Most of the respondents were given a written form to fill out and deposit in a sealed box to maintain secrecy. Illiterate peasants were questioned in person.

By October, about 23,000 usable questionnaires were completed, and what the respondents had to say indicated different attitudes than what many accepted.

As an example, more than half of the married respondents said they do not limit sexual intercourse to only the missionary position, which Liu described as a departure from past practice.

The survey also found 54 percent of city dwellers and 44 percent of peasants do not object to extramarital affairs, attitudes that Liu said would have been espoused by only a small minority just 10 years ago. Nearly 15 percent of married city women who were questioned admitted having one or more affairs.

Liu, who was in Hong Kong this week to attend a seminar on sexology, said in an interview that 90 percent of the married respondents expressed some degree of satisfaction with their sex lives.

About one-fourth of village women and one-third of city women said they often experienced "pleasant feelings" during intercourse, and many others said they had such feelings occasionally.

But further questions indicated the quality of marriage and sex lives may not be as hot as the Chinese think.

Japan's Koreans treated as outcasts

Living on the fringe of society

TOKYO, May 26. (Reuter): Kim Sook-Ja, a Korean who was born and raised in Japan, hid behind a Japanese name for years, safe from the contempt of her friends who openly taunted Koreans.

"I was afraid to use my real name because my friends would often make fun of Koreans," she said. "So I was always hiding."

Kang Young-Wha, a gifted student in high school, said he was repeatedly turned down by private universities because he was Korean.

In a society that prides itself on racial homogeneity, young Koreans born in Japan like Kim and Kang, who look and act like Japanese, remain outsiders like their immigrant parents. They lack even minimum legal protection against discrimination when seeking jobs, banks loans or entry to private schools.

Shortly before South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo arrived in Tokyo on Thursday for an official visit, the Japanese government said it would give in to his demands for more rights for the country's 680,000-strong Korean community.

But many Koreans doubt whether Japan's concessions will ease the lot of people who call themselves social outcasts.

"All they've agreed on is to recognize third-generation Koreans and exempt them from fingerprinting," says Ob Duk-Sa, leader of a

Roh heals memories

TOKYO, May 26. (AP): South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo invited Emperor Akihito to make the first Japanese imperial visit to Korea and said his own trip to Japan would help heal Koreans' bitter memories of Japanese colonisation.

Roh made his comments today as he began wrapping up his three-day state visit to Japan. He planned to stop in Osaka to meet Japanese business leaders and members of the local Korean community before returning to Seoul later today.

Roh and Japanese officials described the visit as a step into a new era of partnership. The two countries have a long history of enmity and still-unresolved issues from the 1910-1945 period when Japan ruled Korea as an annexed colony.

The centerpiece of the visit was a state banquet Thursday night during which Akihito expressed "deepest regret" for Japan's treatment of Koreans.



South Korean police arrest a radical student yesterday during a demonstration outside the US embassy in Seoul. (Reuter wirephoto)

Bid to march into American embassy

23 students held in Seoul

SEOUL, May 26. (UPI): Police arrested 23 youths who tried to enter the US embassy today demanding an immediate reply to an open letter by a dissident student organization seeking US apologies in connection with a 1980 pro-democracy uprising.

Police said the students gathered at a bus stop near the embassy in downtown Seoul at about 1:30 pm and began marching toward the embassy building carrying a placard which accused the United States of being behind the Kwangju civil uprising and the recent merger of three parties into a big new ruling party.

The students who wore Korean national flags around themselves were stopped and arrested by police standing guard around the embassy, a police spokesman said.

On Tuesday, the dissident

National Council of University Students Representatives held a press conference and published an open letter addressed to US Ambassador Donald Gregg.

In the letter the council demanded that the United States disclose its role in the Kwangju

incident and apologize that US forces and nuclear weapons be taken out of Korea and that Gregg be recalled.

To deliver the open letter the council sent eight students to the embassy later in the day but all were arrested.

The democracy revolt erupted in Kwangju 170 miles (274 km) south of Seoul on May 18, 1980, protesting a sweeping government crackdown on political opposition. It was put down by Korean troops in nine days. Nearly 200 people were killed and more than 1,700 injured.

"Our new position by

President Kim II Sung is realistic

and practical and based upon the

changing world situation, which

includes forthcoming German

reunification and the union of

the two Yemeni states," said

Ambassador Pak Gil Yon, the

permanent observer of the

Democratic People's Republic of

Korea.

It was the second straight day

in which the government of

Pyongyang promoted the

proposal for a single UN seat

before reunification.

President Kim said in a speech

Thursday that the two Korean

states should join the world body

before reunification of the

divided Korean peninsula, not afterward — the previous position.

Man harpooned in mystery attack

HONG KONG, May 26, (Reuter): A 30-year-old Hong Kong man was harpooned by a passing motorcyclist today, police said.

The victim, Kwok La-Shing, was standing by the side of the road near a housing estate when a solo motorcyclist shot him with a fisherman's harpoon and drove off, police said.



Smoke rises from the Dai-Ichi Chemical Industries in Tokyo yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Blast at Japan plant

TOKYO, May 26, (AP): An explosion today at a chemical plant in downtown Tokyo killed seven employees and injured 20 others, the fire department said.

More than 50 fire engines went to the blaze which followed at the plant in the Itabashi ward of the city. "The fire was brought under control," a fire department spokesman said.

Six people were killed immediately and a seventh, a person, who was among five seriously injured, died later in hospital, the spokesman said. The final toll might be even higher.

The cause of the explosion was not known, but firemen said it was possible the blast was caused by a chemical used in processing plastics.

A Dai-Ichi chemical industries factory in north-

western Tokyo exploded early today, burning down nine factory buildings, said an official at the Tokyo metropolitan fire department. Some of the buildings in the crowded complex were wooden.

The fire department is investigating the cause of the explosion, the official said.

At the time of the explosion, 51 employees were working at the factory, which manufactures bleaching agents, chlorides and benzoyl peroxide. The condition of the remaining 23 is unknown, though most were thought to have escaped, he said.

Injured employees were being treated at nearby hospitals, he said.

No damage was reported outside the factory, said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Military pledges fairness

Burma goes to polls

BANGKOK, May 26, (AP): The country's first multi-party elections in 30 years tomorrow could be a first step toward ending harsh military rule.

But many Western diplomats, human rights groups and others have charged that widespread arrests, intimidation of party workers and martial law restrictions have already nullified the validity of the polls.

The elections will be held without the country's three most popular opposition leaders.

Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of independence hero Aung San, was placed under house arrest last July and retired Gen. Tin Oo is serving a three-year jail term.

Former Prime Minister Nu, who presided over a chaotic experiment in democracy during the 1950s, also is under house arrest.

Ms. Suu Kyi and Tin Oo headed the National League for Democracy, the country's most popular party which will face off against the conservative National Unity Party. This grouping is the successor to the pro-military Burma Socialist Programme Party, which wielded power for a quarter century.

After initially closing off the country to tourists and turning down requests to monitor the election from several human rights and legal organizations, Rangoon last week granted visas to 61 journalists from the United States, western Europe and Asia.

To be elected are 492 parliamentarians out of 2,297 candidates. Voting has been postponed in seven of the 492

constituencies due to security and communications problems.

The military has promised to step down from power when the parliament puts together a new constitution, a process which could take several years.

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Ms. Suu Kyi and Tin Oo headed the National League for Democracy, the country's most popular party which will face off against the conservative National Unity Party. This grouping is the successor to the pro-military Burma Socialist Programme Party, which wielded power for a quarter century.

After initially closing off the country to tourists and turning down requests to monitor the election from several human rights and legal organizations, Rangoon last week granted visas to 61 journalists from the United States, western Europe and Asia.

To be elected are 492 parliamentarians out of 2,297 candidates. Voting has been postponed in seven of the 492

constituencies due to security and communications problems.

The military has promised to step down from power when the parliament puts together a new constitution, a process which could take several years.

The elections will be held without the country's three most popular opposition leaders.

Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of independence hero Aung San, was placed under house arrest last July and retired Gen. Tin Oo is serving a three-year jail term.

Former Prime Minister Nu, who presided over a chaotic experiment in democracy during the 1950s, also is under house arrest.

Bonn sceptical on Gorby's proposal

'Germany out of Nato military command'

BONN, May 26. (Agencies): West German officials reacted sceptically today to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal that a united Germany could belong to Nato's political organisation but must stay out of its military command.

Gorbachev raised this possibility yesterday during a Moscow visit by French President Francois Mitterrand.

"I asked [Mitterrand] the question, why a united Germany cannot be in a situation like France, which is a member of the political organisation of Nato but not of its military organisation. It is also an option,"

'Special forces' proposal criticised

WASHINGTON, May 26. (Reuter): A recommendation that US special forces, whose tasks include fighting terrorists, be allowed to form a special unit to gather intelligence around the world ran into fierce criticism in the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Chairman Sam Nunn said such independence had created problems in the past, apparently referring to the Iran-Contra scandal in which Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North admitted supplying weapons to Nicaraguan rebels in defiance of a congressional ban.

"There have been some real problems on this in history," said Nunn, a Democrat. "We want to make sure those are not repeated."

The controversy surfaced at the committee's confirmation hearing for Lieutenant General Carl Stiner, who has been nominated by President George Bush to command the elite special operations forces.

The special forces are trained to fight terrorists, move against drug traffickers and conduct special missions such as rescuing Americans from foreign trouble-spots.

Senator John Warner, the committee's ranking Republican, told Stiner his confirmation might be held up until senators' concerns are satisfied.

Warner said according to the recommendation, inspired by the US invasion of Panama, the special forces command would be required to get approval only from the secretary of defence for a special unit to gather intelligence for prospective operations.

All such special intelligence activities must now be approved by officials in the White House, Central Intelligence Agency and Departments of State, Defence and Justice, a procedure that critics say takes about a month.

A committee of experts wants the government to know a lot more about the personal finances of workers with access to top secrets, because money has become the root of modern spying.

The experts' appeal for 13 new laws was warmly received by the Senate Intelligence Committee, whose chairman, David Boren, and vice-chairman, William Cohen, set them to work nine months ago.

Nevertheless, as the experts presented their report, Democratic and Republican senators indicated they might revise the proposals to introduce additional protections for civil liberties.

Also a special Senate panel on recommended measures including surprise lie detector tests and inspections of personal finances in an effort to halt spying by US military and government workers.

The panel of advisers appointed by the Senate Intelligence Committee recommended laws intended to detect and punish spies like John Walker, a former US navy officer who ran an espionage ring for Moscow for 17 years.

Appeal to halt executions

KUALA LUMPUR, May 26. (UPI): An attorney representing eight Hong Kong citizens sentenced to be hanged for drug offences said today he has appealed to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed to stop Malaysia's largest mass execution.

"We're doing whatever we can, and it's not the end of the road," said Karpal Singh, with the eight all scheduled to be hanged Wednesday.

Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has appealed for a pardon for the Hong Kong nationals, and Amnesty International also made a plea for clemency. As the High Commission, said the commissioner had outlined Britain's position to the Malaysian Foreign Ministry.

But government officials said a reprieve from the gallows was unlikely. The eight were arrested at the

Gorbachev said.

West German officials said Bonn would study the proposal carefully but they made clear it was unlikely to find much favour. "We cannot warm to this idea," said one official who asked not to be named. "We look at this rather sceptically."

Officials rejected comparisons between the positions of France and Germany. "Nato would take on an entirely new quality" if Germany, on the front line between East and West, was not part of the alliance's military structure, one officials said.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his Nato allies insist the new Germany must be part of the Western military alliance, arguing that a neutral or demilitarised nation would be a source of instability in central Europe.

In a speech in Bonn yesterday, Kohl said Germany had only ever become a threat to its neighbours when it was isolated, never when it was firmly allied with its neighbours.

"Therefore any thought of neutrality, demilitarisation or independence from alliances for a united Germany must be banished," he said. "We Germans want to exercise our sovereign right ... we want to be a member of an alliance, of the North Atlantic Defence Alliance."

Kohl also tried to assure Moscow that Nato would become more of a political alliance and less of a military one.

It would revise its military strategy and would not station troops on present-day East German territory.

"The alliance of tomorrow, with a united Germany, will be different from the one we know today," he said.

So did Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has repeated objections to German membership of Nato in a West German newspaper interview.

"The Soviet Union cannot agree to the inclusion of a future united Germany in Nato," he told Welt Am Sonntag, which released the text of the interview ahead of its publication tomorrow.

"This attitude is determined by the reality of our foreign policy interests, our history and our public opinion. I believe that the West must understand this," Shevardnadze said.

The security status of a united Germany is the main subject under discussion at "two-plus-four" talks between the two Germanys and the four victorious World War Two allies —

The two Germanys have taken the first formal step towards unification by signing a treaty on economic and currency union that comes into effect on July 1.

But they want the external aspects of German unity to be settled in the two-plus-four talks before crowning the unification process with all-German elections.

Kohl's Social Democratic (SPD) opponents remain deeply divided on the economic union treaty. Oskar Lafontaine, the SPD challenger for Kohl's job in West German elections due to take place in December, has urged his party to reject the treaty when the lower house of parliament in Bonn votes on it next month.

Gorbachev said arms control and Soviet troop withdrawals could "become hostages" if the West insists on full Nato membership for Germany, suggesting the French example of only political participation in the alliance as a compromise.

Gorbachev said he welcomes the unification of Germany as a logical process and most questions should be left to the Germans, but added, "there are also external aspects to this."

■ US President George Bush expressed hope on French television yesterday that he can convince Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that a unified Germany should belong to Nato.

In an interview with the French television network La Cino, Bush said that the United States should not be overly concerned with the Soviet leader's domestic problems.

Part II — Page 8



Yeltsin speaks under a statue of Lenin as he reveals his manifesto at the Russian Parliament May 25. (Reuter wirephoto)

Yeltsin fails to win runoff

Victory for Gorbachev

MOSCOW, May 26. (AP): Populist Boris Yeltsin failed today to win a runoff election for the presidency of the Soviet Union's largest republic, and Russian lawmakers now must take new nominations.

Yeltsin is considered one of national President Mikhail Gorbachev's main rivals, and his failure to win the runoff was a major victory for the Soviet leader.

Yeltsin won 503 votes, 28 short of the necessary majority of the 1,060-member congress. His rival, communist party functionary Ivan Polozhov, received 497 votes.

Lawmakers said Yeltsin, 59, may run again, or that a compromise candidate with better chances of winning a majority may be nominated. The lawmakers were scheduled to resume their session Monday.

In Friday's first round of voting by the Russian Congress, Yeltsin won 497 votes short of the 531 he needed for an absolute majority.

The candidate backed by Gorbachev, Russian Premier Alexander Vassilov, withdrew from

the race yesterday after it became clear he lacked Yeltsin's popularity.

During his campaign, Yeltsin angered Gorbachev with calls for sovereignty for the Russian Republic, which includes Moscow, the seat of national leadership. Russia by far is the largest of the nation's 15 republics, containing more than two-thirds of the country's territory and half the Soviet populace.

Gorbachev accused Yeltsin of being anti-socialist and said his plan for Russian autonomy would mean "the breakup of the Soviet Union."

Yeltsin pledged that if elected he would defend the republic from Kremlin interference, but also said he would be able to work with Gorbachev.

Yeltsin told the Russian Congress of People's Deputies of his plan to promote Russian sovereignty, establish a market economy, increase housing and fill stores with consumer goods.

He blasted the national government programme announced Thursday for a transition to a free-market economy.

Part II — Page 8



Singh shows reporters a note written in Chinese by Hau Sze-Man, 13, addressed to the Malaysian King



Nicu shows on the first day of his trial in Sibiu May 26. (Reuter wirephoto)

Nicu denies ordering to shoot

Claims he was aware protesters had no guns

SIBIU, Romania, May 26. (AP): Nicu Ceausescu, the youngest son of executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, denied at the start of his trial today that he ordered army and police to shoot demonstrators during last December's revolution.

In a speech in Bonn yesterday, Kohl said Germany had only ever become a threat to its neighbours when it was isolated, never when it was firmly allied with its neighbours.

"Therefore any thought of neutrality, demilitarisation or independence from alliances for a united Germany must be banished," he said. "We Germans want to exercise our sovereign right ... we want to be a member of an alliance, of the North Atlantic Defence Alliance."

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Part II — Page 8

hospital from prison June 15 because of his weakened condition.

A statement issued yesterday by the hospital said Sevillano was on a respirator when he died in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit.

A group of 52 of the 81 imprisoned Grapo members began the strike November 30 to protest a Justice Ministry policy that dispersed Grapo convicts among prisons across the country to reduce the influence of leaders who remain at large.

Fony of the 81 continue the hunger strike, according to prison officials.

On March 30 a woman shot and killed a doctor in the northern central city of Zaragoza who had helped force-feed the Grapo members during their hunger strike.

The woman was not caught, but police believe she is a member of the tiny organisation that takes its name from the Spanish initials standing for the first of October revolutionary anti-Fascist group.

(See also Page 8)

The Return of The Ultimate

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• 1000 W: Vacuum cleaner • Pot type.

• 1000 W: Vacuum cleaner • Pot

Gorby takes hard line

MOSCOW, May 26, (Reuter): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev returned to a hard line against Lithuania yesterday and one of his top generals flew to "prevent bloodshed" in the southern republic Armenia.

Gorbachev appeared to rule out special measures to speed up Lithuania's return to independence — even if the rebellious republic were to freeze its March 11 independence declaration — but promised goodwill if it accepted the Kremlin's timetable.

With French President Francois Mitterrand at his side, Gorbachev also told a news conference that Western insistence on a United Germany being a full member of Nato could force Moscow to reconsider its attitude to European detente.

Gorbachev suggested Moscow might accept Germany as a political member of Nato, like France. But military membership would cause the Soviet Union "to give more thought to what is going on, about what we should do about all the negotiating processes, including the European process".

On Lithuanian independence, Gorbachev said: "Our constitution provides for a period of not less than five years ... let us return to the position of March 10 and start the constitutional process. We will show goodwill."

Tass news agency said General Yuri Shatalin, commander of Soviet interior troops, was flying to Yerevan, capital of the southern republic Armenia, to head off bloodshed.

Explosive

Tass said an Armenian militant and a soldier were killed in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakhian enclave of Azerbaijan on Thursday. Shatalin said militant groups in Armenia were building up arsenals and the situation was explosive.

As tension mounted in outlying republics, the Kremlin's aim of creating a market economy to rescue the sick Soviet system, with steep price rises as a first step, prompted Moscow's city government to restrict food sales to residents only.

Interior news agency said a run on food and other products started as soon as Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov announced the reforms on Thursday. "Sales of oats, flour, butter and a series of other goods rose by a factor of six to eight," it said.

"There are already shortages of vital goods."

Prime Minister Ryzhkov threatened to resign if the reforms failed to win support, apparently fearing confrontation in the Ukraine, where ministers said they might call a national strike.

Moscow's blockade of Lithuania bit deeper yesterday.

"Today we cut off the supplies of hot water and steam to all enterprises except to those of vital importance, such as food and food-processing plants," said Alexandru Ambrazavicius, of Lithuania's anti-blockade committee.

In Moscow, Lithuanian Deputy Nikolai Medvedev said Gorbachev told him he wanted a peaceful solution. Asked if Gorbachev thought Lithuania could gain full independence, Medvedev said:

"He clearly said it was completely unacceptable. He even said it was in (the Soviet Union's) interests to have a good neighbour than a constantly bleeding wound in the country."

Lithuania's prime minister said today her rebel Baltic republic could be independent in two years and that attempts to stop that process could cost Gorbachev his job.

Kazimira Pruskiene told Reuters the independence movement in the Baltic states and events in Russia were natural processes that could not be stopped.

Gorbachev appeared to rule out special measures to speed up sovereignty, saying the constitution provided for a period of no less than five years.

Asked about this, Pruskiene said: "I believe it is also possible to achieve (independence) in up to two years."

Earlier in the week, a senior Lithuanian official had said Gorbachev had offered to push through independence in two or three years if the republic suspended its declaration.

Lithuania said the offer was not enough, but Pruskiene left the door open for negotiations.

"We are ready to reach agreement and mutual understanding through negotiations on this transitional process," she said before talks with West Berlin's governing mayor, Walter Momper.

London think tank calls Warsaw Pact dead

LONDON, May 26, (AP): The Soviet-led Warsaw Pact is dead as a military alliance and will probably fall apart when East Germany leaves it, says the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

The West's main dilemma in the 1990s will be how far to get involved in the "messy aftermath", the London-based research centre said in its annual strategic survey.

Even without a clear threat from the East, the 16-nation Nato alliance could

serve as "an insurance policy" for a future undivided Europe, but its role needs a complete redefinition, the survey said.

"In early 1989 ... the key question had been whether Nato?" it said. "A year later that question remains valid ... But a second question, 'whether Nato?' lies not far below the surface."

The survey said the Soviet Union "appears to be sliding towards chaos, and how long, and how much of it will

remain together are very much open questions."

At a news conference, IISS director Francois Heisbourg said there was no possibility that the seven-nation Warsaw Pact "could act as a single organisation in warlike circumstances" where it was the aggressor.

"But Nato as an insurance policy is indispensable to the extent that the countries of Western Europe and the United States consider they have in common a number of interests along-

side a number of values," said Heisbourg.

On other regions, the survey said:

— Middle East: Egypt has supplanted Syria as the pre-eminent power in the Arab world, gaining status from attempts to mediate peace between Israel and the PLO. Syria weakened its position by trying to achieve strategic parity with Israel. "In the 1990s it is Egypt's capacity to moderate and mediate between the Arab states and outsiders, as well as between the

insecure Arab governments themselves, which will be put to the test."

— South Africa: The reform process begun by South African President F. W. de Klerk is "irreversible," and both black and white leaders are under pressure to compromise to reach a quick agreement. "It is a high-risk venture which could easily be derailed by radical elements in both black and white ranks."

— East Asia: North Korea's military preparations " belie the claim that it no longer represents a threat to the South. There are reports North Korea is stockpiling chemical weapons and building a nuclear weapon."

— Afghanistan: A military stalemate between President Najib's pro-Soviet administration and mujahedeen rebels offers no prospect of a settlement. An alternative — a revision to a loosely linked agglomeration of semi-feudal fiefdoms, with no writ running countrywide — appears no less possible and might be as durable."



Anti-govt protest

A Romanian anti-government protester kneels among his colleagues raising a cross during a rally on Thursday at University square in Bucharest as they block the street to

confront the National Salvation Front supporters trying to get into square. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Antall wins vote of confidence: New Prime Minister Jozsef Antall vowed to lead Hungary out of the Warsaw Pact as Hungary's first freely elected government in 43 years won a vote of confidence in parliament.

After more than 70 deputies took the floor to discuss what Antall presented on Tuesday as his "programme of national rebirth," the prime minister was sworn in and his ministers subsequently by collective oath.

The new government is made up of ministers from Antall's Hungarian Democratic Forum, winner of the elections, along with the independent smallholders' party and the Christian Democratic People's Party.

Antall referred to his government as "the government of liberty." (AP)

Republican party leader resigns: Franz Schoenhuber, a former Waffen SS soldier who founded and led the ultra-right Republican Party to several elections successes last year, resigned Friday as party chairman.

His resignation climaxed a crisis in the party ranks following recent setbacks for the republicans in state elections.

Schoenhuber said he was stepping down because he felt unable to oppose what he called a "small clique of extremist functionaries" in the party.

In recent days, Schoenhuber repeatedly warned that the party was heading too far right and was becoming an extremist right-wing group. His charges brought criticism from other party leaders. (AP)

France bans party meeting: France's far right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen said yesterday that officials who banned a meeting of his National Front party misused their authority and acted like fascists.

"There are a certain number of fascists local officials ready to follow the orders of those in power in order to combat their opponents by illegal means," Le Pen told a news conference in the French Alps, where he hoped to chair a public meeting of his party on Sunday.

The meeting was banned late on Friday by the local prefect, the highest authority in the area. French radio said the National Front would defy the ban and hold the meeting, but the party declined comment on the report. (Reuter)

Opposition to fight for democracy: Leaders of Romania's two most powerful opposition parties said yesterday they would fight to keep the country on the path to democracy.

Former communist Ion Iliescu's National Salvation Front won a massive majority in last Sunday's

parliamentary elections, the first free polls in Romania since 1937.

Iliescu himself, accused by opponents of hijacking last December's revolution, won more than 85 per cent of the votes in the presidential poll.

Radu Campeanu, leader of the National Liberal Party and runner-up to Iliescu for the presidency, said his party had decided to play an active role in parliamentary life. (Reuter)

Ceausescu's burial place vandalised: Vandals have desecrated some 70 graves in three Romanian ciles in the last two weeks, nearly half of them belonging to Jews, officials said Friday.

Also defaced were the presumed graves of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, in the southern public cemetery of Ghencea in Bucharest. The crosses mysteriously disappeared two days ago.

The state-run news agency Rompres, quoting the Jewish community office, reported that 28 Jewish graves were vandalised in the Jewish cemetery in the Transylvanian town of Targu Mures and another eight in the eastern city of Galatz at "eternity" cemetery.

The incidents may have been inspired by the desecration of a Jewish cemetery in Capreanu, France, two weeks ago, said Bernard Zauber, president of the Jewish community in Targu Mures. (AP)

US says the Front is guilty: The US State Department said Friday that the governing National Salvation Front in Romania intimidated the opposition and kept it from campaigning effectively in the recent election campaign.

The Front is guilty of "serious distortions" in the recent electoral campaign that gave it an unfair advantage over opposition parties, the department said.

It also said that although there were irregularities on election day last Sunday, they apparently were not sufficient to have changed the landslide victory won by Front candidates. (AP)

Poles to vote today: Poles vote on Sunday in local elections which bring democracy to the grassroots, nine months after the revolution that overthrew Communist rule.

In what the Solidarity-led government calls another peaceful revolution, voters will elect more than 52,000 members to 2,400 autonomous councils that will take over from the state the administration of Poland's villages, towns and cities.

Solidarity boycotted the last local elections in 1988, when seats were shared out between the communists and their allies and the councils acted as agents for the central government. (Reuter)

Khartoum appeals for international aid

Khartoum, the head of Egypt's monitoring service said the unit's seismographs have recorded almost continual aftershocks since Thursday night's big one, including one reported by Juba residents this morning.

Geologist Rashad M. Kebeasy said three strong quakes Thursday night followed within an hour of the 7.1 aftershock. They became progressively weaker, with Richter readings of 6.3, 6.6 and 5.2. Between then and midday today, he said, the only significant quake registered 6.1 on the Richter scale.

Medical relief workers in Juba, 750 miles (1200 km) south of Khartoum, reported feeling 10 tremors Thursday night.

The Richter is a gauge of the energy released, as measured by ground motion recorded on a seismograph. Every increase of a whole number means the ground motion is 10 times greater.

Kebeasy, president of Egypt's National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics, said the worst appears to be over.

An earthquake with a Richter magnitude of 6 can cause severe damage, 7 widespread and heavy

injury. (AP)

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United Nations official stands by his car on May 25 and watches as a combined force of Israeli army soldiers and border police go into Anabta refugee camp. (Reuter wirephoto)



An Arab boy steps out of the way on May 25 as an Israeli border policeman orders his troops to move on through an Old City alleyway after Friday prayers. (Reuter wirephoto)

Israel army lift Nablus curfew

Hamas urges US goods boycott

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM. May 26. (Agencies): The Israeli Army lifted a curfew from Nablus, the largest West Bank town, today, but the Gaza Strip remained under curfew for a seventh day.

The curfews were imposed May 20 following the killing of seven Arab workers by an Israeli in the town of Rishon Lezion. Despite the harsh security measures, rioting spread throughout the territories. Sixteen Palestinians were killed and hundreds wounded in the violence that tapered off toward the end of the week.

The territories were relatively quiet today. Palestinian sources said, as the UN Security Council met for a second day to discuss the upsurge in violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

After the curfew on Nablus was lifted, some Arab residents demonstrated but no injuries were reported. Palestinians sources said.

Stores opened for about two hours in the city of 105,000, then closed to observe a three-day commercial strike called to protest the deaths of Palestinians during the week. The army also ended the curfew on Ramallah.

The army reimposed curfews on the Gaza Strip villages of Beit Hanun and Beit Lahia, making the curfew on the impoverished territory complete. The army has said it is trying to exercise "maximum restraint" to prevent further casualties.

Two Gazans were wounded by plastic covered metal bullets in clashes yesterday. Palestinian sources said.

In Arab east Jerusalem, police arrested 15 Palestinian demonstrators near the US consulate after stones were thrown at a patrol and tyres burned, police and Palestinian sources said.

In its leaflet 57, the clandestine Palestine leadership of the 29-month-old uprising called for an escalation of the struggle against Israeli occupation and instructed Arabs not to co-operate with military civil administration until June 10.

A number of Palestinian and Arab students today staged a sit-in at Palestinian embassy in Moscow to protest the brutal massacre of Palestinian labourers near Tel Aviv last Sunday.

The students delivered speeches expressing their strong anger and dismay towards the crime of the Israeli gunman who killed unarmed Palestinian civilians and wounded 16 others. The Islamic fundamentalist group helping to direct the Palestinian uprising has urged Arab leaders meeting in Baghdad to order a boycott of American goods because of Washington's support for Israel.

In a letter to the summit beginning in Baghdad on Monday, the Islamic resistance movement Hama also called on Arabs to form a joint army for the liberation of Palestine.

Several Japanese civic bodies today sent cables of condemnation to the Israeli Zionist entity over the massacres perpetrated against the Palestinian people in their occupied homeland.

In a protest note to the Israeli government, the Japanese Movement for Peace and Democracy (MPD) condemned the criminal acts against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Japan Women's Congress said in a protest telegram to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir "with strong indignation we protest acts against the Palestinians in the occupied territories."

Presiding Bishop Edmond Browning of the Episcopal Church, in a letter to President Bush, said yesterday the United States should consider ending its support to Israel until it stops "violating the fundamental human rights of an occupied people."

Browning, in his 1/2-page letter to Bush — an Episcopal communicant — praised Church for the concerns the president for the concerns the administration has expressed over the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories since the occupied last weekend of seven slayings by an Israeli.



Kapisa former Soviet deputy foreign minister and member of the Supreme Soviet visits Salah Mohamed Al Ayan, a 16-year-old Palestinian wounded by Israeli troops. (Reuter wirephoto)

Soviets support hunger strikers

Ties with Israel damaged

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM. May 26. (Reuter): Members of a rare Soviet delegation to Israel gave their backing yesterday to Palestinian hunger strikers and said the Jewish state had severely harmed its relations with Moscow.

"We have come here to express our solidarity with the Palestinian people in these very dangerous times," Anatoly Ilyin told reporters in the garden of East Jerusalem's Red Cross offices, where 50 Palestinians are on hunger strike.

The strikers, including leading activists Faisal Husseini, Radwan Abu Ayyash and Sari Nusseibeh, began fasting on Sunday after deranged Israeli shot dead seven Arab workers.

They demanded among other things international supervision of the occupied territories.

Baghdad makes a comeback as major summit venue after 8 years of war

BAGHDAD. May 26. (Reuter): Baghdad, billing itself as "the city of victory and peace," is basking in its return to diplomatic centre stage after eight years of the Gulf war.

Arab kings and presidents begin an emergency meeting on Monday in the Iraqi capital, shunned as a venue for major summits since 1980 because of the Iran-Iraq conflict.

They will meet in a lavish conference centre built at great expense for a non-aligned summit which should have taken place there in 1982.

The meeting moved to India because Iran and

earlier the five members of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee visited Arabs wounded in the 29-month-old revolution against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Committee chairman Mikhail Caputin, member of the Soviet Parliament and a former deputy foreign minister, said during a hospital visit that Moscow's relations with the Jewish state had suffered badly from the past week's violence.

"The Popular Front, which is part of the PLO, said in one communiqué: 'The heroic operation was our response to the massacre committed by the Zionist enemy against the workers of Palestine.'

The Syrian-based group acknowledged that it lost four "martyrs in the daring operation."

It said the raiders "detonated remote-controlled bombs beside an enemy convoy, inflicting a number of casualties."

One Lebanese source said the SLA convoy of two armoured personnel carriers and two jeeps was hit near Shebaa in the eastern sector of the Israeli zone.

"The two jeeps were knocked out and one of the APCs was severely damaged," the source said.

Syria, Tehran's Arab ally, objected to the venue. Many other countries felt that Baghdad, 120 km (75 miles) from the Iranian border, was not safe for so many heads of state in wartime.

During the war the city, which stretches for 70 km (40 miles) along both banks of the Tigris, suffered frequent Iranian rocket attacks.

Fighting ended with a UN-sponsored ceasefire in August 1988. Iraq hailed it as a victory, although peace talks remain deadlocked.

But Baghdad, once capital of an Arab empire stretching from Algeria to the steppes of Central

Asia, has settled back to more peaceful ways. It played host in February 1989 to the founding summit of the Arab Co-operation Council, an alliance set up by Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen.

More than four decades of oil revenue have transformed Baghdad from a compact town of less than a million, just emerging from the shadow of the Ottoman Empire, into a sprawling metropolis of 4.5 million, crisscrossed by six-lane expressways.

Its five five-star hotels, completed for the 1982 summit, can more than accommodate next week's

Arabs ambush Rashaya militias

RASHAYA, Lebanon, May 26. (AP): Palestinian commandos ambushed a convoy of Israeli-backed militiamen in south Lebanon today inflicting and undisclosed number of casualties and losing four of their men, Lebanese security sources reported.

The Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said in a series of communiques issued in Beirut that its fighters carried out the attack to avenge the massacre of seven Palestinian workers by an Israeli gunman near Tel Aviv last Sunday.

The Lebanese sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a commando force detonated three remote-control bombs on a road inside Israel's self-designated "security zone" north of the border with the Jewish state by the South Lebanon Army convoy passed.

But an Israeli army spokesman in Tel Aviv said there were no SLA casualties, but reported that the militiamen killed four commandos. He made no mention of bombs.

The Israeli version indicated that a patrol of the mainly Christian SLA intercepted an infiltration attempt rather than the militiamen were ambushed.

The clash came as a special United Nations Security Council session in Geneva debated the Palestine issue.

Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday accused the Israelis of waging a "war of extermination" against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and called for an emergency UN Peacekeeping Force to deploy.

Officials said King Hussein, whose country has the longest ceasefire line with Israel, would tell the meeting Jordan must maintain its military strength if it were to remain the Arab nation's first line of defence.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Qassem, addressing Arab foreign ministers meeting in Baghdad to prepare for the summit, called for "investments for Arab security and stability."

Newspapers said today he was referring to suggestions that the kingdom cut military spending as part of an austerity plan agreed with the International Monetary Fund.

Arab kings and heads of state should "stand up tall and united and start calling the shots" in confronting Israel, said an editorial.

The call for action by the outspoken English-language Jordan Times reflected Jordanian and Palestinian expectations of the Arab summit.

"I won't comment on this," said Shamir aide Avi Pazner.

Israelis must talk

Hassan warns of fundamentalism

NEW YORK, May 26. (Reuter): Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan Bin Talal has said moderate Arabs and Israelis must talk to one another because the real danger to peace is growing religious fundamentalism.

Writing on the opinion page of today's New York Times, the crown prince said unless Arabs and

Israelis fashioned "their own special glasnost," growing violence and terrorism would lead to a war which neither side would win.

He said the killings of innocent Palestinians by an Israeli in the occupied territories and the "subsequent popular uproar and agitation" underscored this need.

Arab summits

'Fall short of hopes'

BAGHDAD, May 26. (Reuter): With a new summit starting on Monday and mindful that their leaders have met 18 times in 26 years, ordinary Arabs complain that the costly events seldom live up to their opening fanfares and pledges of unity.

As Baghdad prepares for the 19th summit Iraqi commentators, reflecting the ambitions of President Saddam Hussein, predicted this would be the one to remember.

"The Baghdad summit is the summit of summits ... it can be the summit of change in Arab political life, a chance for the Arabs and peoples of the Third World to assert their identity," said columnist Mazhar Arif in Al Iraq newspaper.



Capucci in Rome

Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, ges-
turing as he addresses ambassadors of Arab states to Italy in the Arab League Rome offices May 25. Capucci, the controversial prelate who was jailed by Israel in 1974 for returning to Arab commandos to protest against killing of Palestinians.

"We hope this conference will ... show the world that the Arabs are a single force which cannot be broken, piece by piece, and in stages," he said.

Bu Syria, a key element in any feasible Middle East settlement, is boycotting the meeting hosted by its arch-rival Iraq. Damascus says the talks are a propaganda ploy by Hussein.

Lebanon's Syrian-backed government, which ironically owes its existence to a summit in Casablanca a year ago, is also staying away.

The outspoken Algerian press is already dismissing the Baghdad summit as of no practical use in the absence of Syria.

"The great Arab show to the glory of (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein ... in Baghdad already foretells the dream of the new Arab supreme," said the Algerian weekly *Algerie Actuelle*.

The Casablanca summit, one of the longest and most bitter since the first in Cairo in 1964, backed a PLO peace initiative and asked Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia to mediate in war-torn Lebanon.

But Israel still refuses to talk to the PLO and Lebanon's agony continues.

Israeli officials argue that the heavy crackdown on Palestinian violence is an essential deterrent needed to contain unrest in the territories occupied by Israel since the 1967 Middle East war.

Most of the Israelis involved in the conflict also claim they have acted in self-defence, often in response to a stoning attack on a highway.

Still, left-wing legislators and Palestinian activists argue that the leniency towards Jewish perpetrators fails to create enough of a deterrent to vigilante acts.

Lenient penalty fuels attacks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM. May 26. (AP): Israeli human rights activists and Palestinian leaders say lenient punishments for anti-Arab attacks were a key reason behind the anger that triggered a wave of unrest after the shooting deaths of seven Gaza labourers.

Five Israelis suspected of slaying Arabs have been brought to court since the start of the 29-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Counting Sunday's shooting and subsequent riots in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 702 Palestinians have died in Israeli gunfire in the uprising. Another 216 have been slain by fellow Arabs as suspected Israeli collaborators. Forty-three Israelis have died in the violence.

But since December 1987, of the cases of Palestinians killed by Israeli civilians, only five have resulted in trials, sentencing or indictments, says Betzelem, an Israeli human rights group.

The stiffest sentence for murder has been three years in prison. Palestinians convicted of murder almost always get life sentences and their homes are demolished.

"The government is responsible because they don't punish enough someone who does that," said Jamal Abu Daka, one of the 11 wounded in Sunday's attack near Tel Aviv, speaking from a hospital bed.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other Israeli leaders reacted swiftly to the attack on the Palestinian labourers.

"We are in shock from this criminal act," Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner said. "He (the suspect) will be brought to trial and punished for what he did."

Palestinian leaders were sceptical about the expressions of regret.

Condemnation

"Condemnation from politicians isn't enough," Bethlehem mayor Elias Frej told Israel radio. "What is needed are jail sentences for people who commit such crimes against Arabs."

In the last three years, the stiffest sentence for killing an Arab, was passed on Jewish settler Yisrael Zeev Ironi, Shilo, in the West Bank. He is serving a three-year jail sentence for shooting to death a shepherd from a nearby village in 1988.

Another settler has been sentenced to five and a half years in jail for shooting and wounding two Arabs near Tel Aviv a year ago.

Only one other Israeli, firebrand settlement leader rabbi Moshe Levinger, has been sentenced for slaying a Palestinian.

He got a five-month sentence after a plea bargain, for causing the death of a merchant in Hebron during a stone-throwing incident in 1989. Dozens of settlers carried Levinger to jail on their shoulders last week.

Such cases as 1988 burning of a shack near Tel Aviv, which resulted in the death of three Arab labourers, and the April 1989 shooting attack by a man in Army uniform in occupied Jerusalem that left one Palestinian dead and three wounded, have not been resolved.

Arab youths convicted of stone-throwing attacks usually get tough sentences even when no injury is caused.

For example, a Ramallah military court last year sentenced 15-year-old Munzer Zaatar to 10 months in jail for a rock-throwing incident in which nobody was hurt.

Palestinian attorney Ali Gozlan noted a recent case of an Arab youth in Jerusalem who got four years for damaging a car by a stoning although nobody was hurt.

The army has failed to apprehend many of the Palestinians suspected of slaying Israeli civilians during the uprising, but those Arabs who are caught and tried for murder are severely punished.

The worst Arab attack of the uprising was last July when a Gaza man forced a passenger bus into a deep ravine, killing 16 people. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Three Palestinians who firedbombed an Israeli bus in Jericho in the West Bank, killing a mother and three children, on Oct 30, 1988, were also given life sentences in the past year.

Israeli officials argue that the heavy crackdown on Palestinian violence is an essential deterrent — immigrant manual workers from Egypt and Sudan rub shoulders with Palestinian professionals.

Two decades of socialism have studded the city with massive examples of socialist realist art — a martyr's memorial, a shrine to the Unknown Soldier and a monument of liberation.

The latest addition is a victory arch formed by crossed swords. The fists which hold the hills are modelled on those of President Saddam Hussein, 40 times life-size.

هذا من الأصل

New KU buildings ready by September

Budget symposium begins today

THE Kuwait University Planning Department has since the start of the present academic year planned the construction of a number of new academic buildings to resolve the shortage of space and accommodate the constantly increasing

number of students.

Seyassah, quoting reliable university sources, said that buildings currently under construction are expected to be completed at the outset of the coming academic year 1990/91.

Meanwhile, the Department of Financial Affairs at the university is preparing to hold its second symposium to discuss the preparation and execution of budget projects for the different university faculties and colleges, from today (May 27)

until May 29.

Participants in the symposium will contribute an analytical statement shedding light on problems related to the preparation and implementation of the budget.

UAE calls for united pan-Arab strategy

DOHA, May 26, (Kuwa): Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan has called on Arab leaders, meeting in Bagdad on Monday to adopt a united strategy to confront direct and indirect perils threatening pan-Arab security.

Speaking to the Qatari daily Al Raya in an interview the UAE official said Arab leaders, meeting in an emergency summit in Baghdad May 28, should clear inter-Arab rifts "because the approaching danger will not exclude anyone."

The UAE was the first Arab country to support convocation of the summit out of awareness of the imminent danger and challenges facing the Arab nation, he added.

He expressed sincere hope that the Arab leaders would overcome their differences in order to confront the Jewish influx into occupied Arab territories that threaten Pan-Arab security.

He added that the UAE President Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan will brief the Arab leaders, during the summit, on the outcome of his Asian tour which was concluded Wednesday to enable Arab leaders of employing such results in the service of Arab and Muslim causes.

Sheikh Khalifa hailed the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and extolled its political and moral achievements.

GCC meeting
RIYADH, May 26, (Kuwa): The third meeting for the technical committee of GCC planning undersecretaries opened here today to follow up the integration process among member states.

A communiqué distributed by the secretariat beretodays said the meeting is to discuss many important issues including a unified index for planning terms and a study of the situation of member countries planning bodies among other issues.



Farewell reception

Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Atbi Al Sabah held a party at Kuwait International Hotel in honour of the chairman of Petrochemical Industries Company Abdul Baqi Al Nouri and the undersecretary at the Oil Ministry Abdul Rahman Al Sultan on the occasion of their resignation from their posts. The party was attended by a number of personalities and senior officials in the oil sector. Picture shows the oil minister (extreme right) with his guests.

From the courts

10 men jailed for trading in liquor

THE Criminal Court sentenced 10 men to one and a half years each with hard labour for trading in liquor. The 10 people including the owner of a farm, were caught by the police on a private farm and 78 cases of whisky were seized. The accused appealed to the Court of Higher Appeal and the court upheld the sentence of 4 of them and reduced the jail term to only one year on the rest.

THE Criminal Court sentenced Salem to 4 years imprisonment with hard labour for smuggling liquor into Kuwait and sentenced him for another 3 months imprisonment for illegally entering the country. The court ordered the confiscation of the vehicle and the whisky. The court heard that Salem was driving one of two vans that invaded Kuwait's borders during the night. They were intercepted by police patrols but they ran away. The police patrol chased them until they reached Juleeb Al Shuyookh area. There, the patrol exchanged fire with them. It succeeded in hitting a tyre of Salem's vehicle while the second one succeeded in escaping along with the smugglers. Salem was immediately arrested and whisky was seized from him. He confessed in the court on all the charges. The court also ordered his deportation from Kuwait after the sentence.

THE Criminal Court issued a suspended two years imprisonment on a man for possessing liquor and hashish. The court however considered his condi-

tion and decided to suspend the execution of the jail term for three years. The court also fined the man KD 500 but acquitted a second accused. The court heard that the man was driving his car in Mishref desert at 1.00 after midnight. A police patrol became suspicious because of the way he was driving his car. When they stopped him they found two bottles of whisky with him, one of them half and the other full. He was also drunk and they also found a piece of hashish in the car. The defendant told the police he got the hashish from the second accused M. who confessed to the police that he was the seller but denied it in court. The lawyer of the accused told the court that the car his client was driving was not his as he rented it from a rental office. He added that the hashish, thus, might have been kept there by another client. He supplied the court with documents explaining his family condition and that he has three children. For that the court sentenced him to 2 years imprisonment and fined him KD 500 but suspended the execution of the jail term for 3 years.

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man and his wife to 2 years imprisonment each for issuing a bad cheque. The wife issued a check of KD 2,500 and the husband endorsed the check to another man S. against buying a mobile telephone. The check was found to be bad and the couple were sent to court. They did not attend the court session to defend themselves and were sentenced to 2 years in jail with hard labour.

GCC meeting

THE financial and economic cooperation committee, which comprises GCC ministers of finance and economy, holds a meeting at the GCC secretariat general in Riyadh on June 6 to discuss a number of topics relating to different facets of co-operation between the GCC members in various economic fields, including follow-up of the implementation of items on the GCC unified economic pact in the light of decision adopted during the GCC higher council 10th session held in Muscat last year.

Agro authority to market local produce

THE assistant undersecretary for administrative development affairs and head of the main team assigned to disintegrate shared functions among government concerns Dr Nasser Al Sane has said that co-ordination is currently in progress between the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources and Kuwait Municipality to undertake marketing of local agro-productions.

He told a local daily that the progress report covered different areas of work achievements. These included the transfer of responsibility over agricultural plots to the authority in line with the principles laid down by the workteam. Formalities currently in progress to complete the required procedure preliminary to receiving the agricultural plots from the municipality.

The report also said that the responsibility over national parks, rangelands, afforestation projects, natural reserves, landscaping works, animal farms, marine fisheries and fish farms will be fully transferred to the authority in line with the official procedures enforced.

He pointed out that the Kuwait Municipality will under the same agreement revise some clauses under the existing Municipality Act No 15 for 1979, leaving our matters relating to the execution and maintenance of parks, tree-planting and supervision work, which is already assigned to the authority.

He said that co-ordination is also in progress between the municipality and the authority to designate special sites inside local markets to market local agro-products.

THE assistant director general of the National Housing Authority for design, planning and executive affairs Ali Al Fouzan has said that the authority is preparing schemes of the housing projects of the 4th Five Year Plan 90/1995. He added that the plan will be based on achieving equality among citizens on basis of cost of the land allotment and

not its area. He added that the plan will include housing projects in Umm Al Hamra, Jahra, Qurain and other places with an area of 400 square metres for each house at these places. The plan also includes housing projects in Sulaihah and west of Fintas with an area of 250 square metres for each houses. The authority is still studying

Privatisation should be properly studied: official

Chronic problems in public sector

PRIVATISATION of some public corporations is an issue that has wide and serious ramifications and this sector's vital importance necessitates that well thought out parameters, based on certain established criterion are adopted.

Dr Ayed Al Manna from Kuwait University, speaking at a lecture organised by Al Ardhi Co-operative Society entitled "Privatisation of the Public Sector - Justifications and Warnings" gave a comprehensive historical background of the public

sector under the justification that the government aims at improving these services and to get rid of excessive administrative staff. Obviously, he said that the productivity of the public sector is very slow and the government is intending to address this issue through the privatisation process - particularly in the administrative field.

The lecturer opined that although the weakness of the public sector productivity constitutes justification for determining remedial courses of action, the relevant suggestions presented should not exclusively focus on the denationalisation process. **Workforce**

He added that for the time being, in the absence of qualified national workforce, the private sector, following the denationalisation process will be reluctant to enhance the number of expatriate workforce while currently stands at 72.7 per cent of the country's total workforce.

The figures cited are according to 1989 statistics the lecturer said and increasing the number of expatriate workforce will eventually negatively affect the population balance which the country is trying so hard to achieve.

He said that about 92.7 per cent of Kuwaitis are working in the public sector.

Manna said that the private sector which is always keen on making large profits, could not provide services of an economic nature. But, it must be borne in mind that high prices will never be paid for such services. He underscored the fact that in private sector will strive to make profits even at the expense of the public sector.

Scenario
In Britain, a near identical scenario was being witnessed due to ideological and economic factors prevailing which had emerged after World War II. The British Labour Party adopted a special policy which permitted it to nationalise some projects. Conversely, the Conservatives after 1951, privatised steel projects. In 1979, when the Conservatives, led by Margaret Thatcher took the helm, the private sector achieved many laurels which were represented by denationalisation of several public projects during the 1980s.

Meanwhile, Manna went on to state that the public sector is playing a significant role towards creating job opportunities in the region. What should be appreciated in this respect, he said is that the private sector undertakes its responsibilities without resorting to overstaffing.

Consequently, Manna hypothesised that through its active involvement and expansion into vital services, including the fields of education, health, communication and housing the private sector could also create the necessary job opportunities

Gulf still unstable: Mazidi

KUWAIT, May 26, (Kuwa): State Minister for Services Affairs Isha Al Mazidi was quoted here today as saying that the situation in the Arabian Gulf region will remain of concern to many countries and might negatively affect commercial activities.

"Due to the inability of Iran and Iraq to reach a full and clear peace, the situation in the Gulf will remain to be of concern to all of us and exposes navigation in the region to possibilities of decline and fluctuation," Mazidi told a local daily.

The Kuwaiti government plays an important role in maintaining the security of the region and convincing the two adversaries to reach a comprehensive peace, Mazidi said.

Iraq and Iran, who stopped the fighting between them in August 1988, have not been able yet to reach a conclusive peace treaty normalising their relation. However, the two, through the United Nations, have been attempting to negotiate a settlement since

Kuwait, he added, "believes that the circumstances for reaching an agreement are more than the circumstances calling for disputes, and the questions under discussions and negotiations could find a compromise formula accepted by both sides."

Police face pressure in city

KUWAIT CITY is considered one of the most crowded residential and commercial areas and this is precisely the reason police officers face more pressure to preserve safety and comfort for all. Patrols at the capitals have taken this responsibility along with other duties represented by carrying out most police stations work.

A local daily interviewed the commander of capital patrols, Lt Col Ahmad Rajab who stressed that capital patrol forces face huge responsibilities and carry the load of most police stations.

On the other hand, Major Ghulam Habeeb said that more patrols were assigned at commercial banks and establishments located in the capital to preserve security and order. He pointed out that police officers have no authority to force any vehicle to stop in order to inquire about identifications.

Commander of capital patrols started the conversation by saying that securitymen are now facing more responsibilities after the vast expansion of population and commercial movement in the area. In addition to preserving security and order patrols work round the clock and take in guarding official

caravans and national celebration and also preserving smooth traffic flow.

He stated that capital patrols took over most police stations duties and assist resolving many problems. Headed that patrols duties cover capital areas including Sharq, Murgab, Dasman, Salhiya, Madina, Shwaiikh, Shamiya, Adaliya, Khaldiya, Rawdha, Dhahira, Mansooriya, Bencid El Qar, Fayha, Nuzha, Qadsya, Keifan, Daiya, Sulaihah, Doha, the hospital area, the vegetables and fruits market, and military academies.

Major Ghulam Habeeb meanwhile stated that patrols duties include rescue, traffic and police stations activities. He pointed out that 18 patrols are assigned during each shift in different areas. He stressed that capital patrols have succeeded resolving many daily problems.

He further stressed that strong legal measures are taken against police officers who misreat girls and females in the street. He added that it is not true that patrol personnel misbehave with women drivers. He stressed that the law is implemented on both women and men equally.

NHA preparing fourth plan housing schemes

housing projects in the new areas of Wafra and Khiran. It will determine the area of houses in the two areas according to policies put by state to develop such areas, he said.

Questionnaire
Fouzan pointed out that the authority is studying and follow-

ing up its designs and designs of houses through distribution of questionnaires among citizens before and after receiving their houses. The results of these questionnaires can help the authority develop its design. The trends of the new Five Year Plan will have the best use of lands by reducing the area of the land allotment but maintaining all elements of the programme of government house. The authority does its best to follow up works and achievements of contractors at the housing projects. It carries out its duties and responsibilities when it sees that they delay the work. Sometimes we withdraw the project from contractors who delay work and hand it to other contractors, he said.

Inspection tour

Undersecretary of the Higher Education Ministry, Musa Al Haroon yesterday made an inspection visit to the Commercial Studies and Health Sciences Colleges for girls of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training. He was received by top officials at both colleges.

Sign

Wakeham lauds UK-Kuwait relations

Hope for better ties with Arabs

LONDON, May 26, (Kuna): Britain's Energy Secretary John Wakeham has paid tribute to Anglo-Kuwaiti relations, while stressing that his recent visit to that Arab country was successful.

In an exclusive interview with Kuna here today, Wakeham however, indicated that "tangible results usually take longer time to emerge."

The minister stressed that his recent trip to Kuwait and Qatar improved "the already good relations" with these two Arab Gulf countries.

Wakeham pointed out that he extended during his trip to Kuwait a formal invitation to Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah to visit the UK.

He described Sheikh Ali as a "distinguished oil minister."

The visit will take place "at a time which would be convenient to him," Wakeham added.

24 kidney transplants performed in 1 month

KUWAIT, May 26, (Kuna): Kuwait's Hamid Al Isa Centre for Organ Transplant has performed a record 24 kidney transplant operations in one month and Professor George Abuna, the centre's chief, appealed to the people not to hesitate in donating organs to those who need them.

In an interview with Kuna, Prof. Abuna underscored that out of the 24 successful operations, 17 of the donated kidneys were from cadavers which he regards as an important development.

He said another major factor was that the centre was able for the first time to receive kidneys from four donors in four hours.

Prof. Abuna indicated that one Kuwaiti father who requested anonymity, donated the kidneys of his eight-year-old boy who died as a result of a car accident, to those who needed them just for God's sake.

Dr. Abuna regretted that they were not able to make use of the donor's liver and pancreas due to the fact that he had been linked to life-support system for ten days, a matter which led to the deterioration of the efficacy of those organs. He cited other difficulties such as lengthy medical and legal procedures which made it not make it possible to extract the liver and the pancreas at the right time.

Procurement

To remove difficulties hindering organ transplant operations in Kuwait, Prof. Abuna suggested the establishment of Western-style organ procurement body to alleviate the burden on the surgical teams.

He indicated that the proposed bodies would be entrusted with co-ordination of legal, medical and social aspects related to organ transplants instead of wasting surgeon's time in other hospitals trying to that job.

He emphasised that without the establishment of such a vital assisting body "no tangible progress could be achieved in the field of organ transplant."

The performance of 25 operations in a span of four weeks is really a fantastic job, he said, but warned that rate could not be maintained without the establishment of an integrated apparatus to undertake legal, social and medical affairs.

Prof. Abuna said the centre had recently submitted a project on establishment of an organ procurement apparatus to the Ministry of Health, hoping that it would gain the support of Health Minister Abdel Razzaq Yousif Al Abdel Razzaq who expressed sympathy with the project.

Costs

The chief of Hamid Al Isa Organ Transplant Centre said the annual cost of the project was estimated at KD 180,000 (about \$60,000), mainly for paying the salaries of technicians, social workers and for the purchase of some equipment.

He noted that the bumble cost of the project, which helps only three Kuwaitis to undergo heart or pancreas transplants in the United States, would enable the centre to perform between 60 to 70 similar operations in Kuwait.

He said a study conducted before submitting the project had shown that if the centre manages to receive 24 cadavers a year or two cadavers every two weeks, it will save the country over KD 1.5 million spent in organs transplant abroad.

Estimating the number of those who die in traffic accidents in Kuwait at 350 persons a year, Prof. Abuna said the target of 24 cadavers a year is still far below the required 20 per cent of the cadavers.

Bearing in mind that the loss of beloved ones is a tragic event, yet relatives of the deceased can restore the smile to those who still live miserably due to failure of one or more organs of their bodies.



Sikaran-Karate practitioners posed after their rigorous training: Sitting (L-R) Jerry Bagasala, brown belt; Jose Muraide, black belt. Standing (L-R) Manny Inserio, outgoing Kapilku president, 4th dan black belt (PKA & KKA); Brendon Rivera, brown belt; Bayani Trinidad, 5th dan black belt (Tikatu); Crispin Oficer, 1st dan black belt; Abraham Delizo & Robin M Adiong, 4th dan black belt (Kafephil & JKA).

Kapilku to hold pre-independence day gala

THE Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapisanang Filipino sa Kuwait), Kapilku, invites all Filipinos to the Barong Tagalog Competition which will be held during the Philippine pre-independence day celebration on June 8 at Messilah Beach Resort. The competition is organised by the Philippine Embassy under the patronage of His Excellency Ambassador Mauyag Mohammad Taman, Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait.

The Barong Tagalog competition is open to all Filipinos and is classified into two categories, that is, men and ladies. The top three models in each category will receive valuable prizes and trophies.

Deadline for submission of entries will be June 5. For more details, please contact Ms Sarah A. Macarimbang, outgoing Kapilku vice-president for Social & Cultural Affairs on telephone numbers 4839009, 4839889 and 4843447.

The success of last year's Kapilku's Palarong Pilipino which included the Sikaran-Karate as a new sports in the mini-olympics will be demonstrated by experts in this martial arts. Sikaran is a Filipino art of foot fighting which is similar to karate and taek-

wondo. The competition will include Kata exhibition, self-defense and street fighting techniques and free style sparring.

A Kata tournament will be included in the day's celebration to add flavour to the exhibition. The Kata competition is open to all Green, Brown and Black belt holders. The top three in each division will receive valuable prizes plus trophies and medals.

Entrance is free. All interested participants who wish to join can contact Jun Arenas, finance officer of the Philippine Embassy on telephone number 5329315 or Robin M. Adiong, technical advisor of the Philippine Embassy on telephone number 5329316 or Manny Inserio. Deadline for submission of entries will be June 5.

Arnis, the Filipino art of stick defence which is similar to Kendo will be an added attraction during the celebration.

For more details regarding the forthcoming Philippine Pre-independence day on June 8 at Messilah Beach, please contact Philippine Embassy or any of the officers of the seven Filipino associations.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amir's audience

KUWAIT, May 26, (Kuna): HH the Amir today received in audience HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Sabah and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber.

His Highness also received the Indonesian ambassador to Kuwait to take leave on the occasion of ending his mission in the country.

Arab summit

KUWAIT, May 26, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah and the accompanying delegation leave the country Sunday morning for Baghdad to attend the extraordinary Arab summit Conference.

The emergency Arab summit, called for by the PLO to discuss the dangers facing the Arab nation, is to start in the Iraqi capital on Monday.

Rwandan minister

KUWAIT, May 26, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla received at his diwan in the Bayan Palace this morning Rwanda's Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Minister Dr Casimir Bizimungu and the accompanying delegation on the occasion of their visit to the country.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Undersecretary Sulaiman Majid Shahin and Rwanda's non-resident ambassador to Kuwait.

Premier's council

KUWAIT, May 26, (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Salem Al Sabah today presided over a meeting at his diwan in Bayan Palace for the Higher Petroleum Council following its new formation May 14.

The council headed by Sheikh Saad groups deputy premier and foreign minister, ministers of finance, state for cabinet affairs, oil, planning and trade and industry.

The council also groups Dr Imad Mohammed Abdul Aziz Al Atiqi, Jassim Mohammed Othman Al Mousa, Ahmed Abdulla Al Ahmed, Abdul Mohsen Faisal Al Thwaini, Salem Abdulla Latif Musallam and Dr Sulaiman Mubarak Abdulla Shamseddin.

Sheikh Zayed

ABU DHABI, May 26, (Kuna): The United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan will head for Baghdad tomorrow to take part in the extraordinary Arab summit due to open Monday, it was announced here today.

The summit which comes at the request of the PLO, will discuss the direct and indirect threats against Arab national security.

Omani message

KUWAIT, May 26, (Kuna): Minister of Trade and Industry Faisal Abdul Razzaq Al Khalid today received a message from his Omani counterpart Salem Bin Abdulla on trade and industrial relations between the two countries.

The message dealt with co-operation and co-ordination in the commercial field between Kuwait and Oman. The latter chairs the current session of the GCC trade and industry ministers council.

It was handed by Omani Ambassador to Kuwait Hisham Bin Salem Al Sayabi to the ministry's Undersecretary Abdulla Hamad Al Hamad.

No leniency shown to drug smugglers: Farhan

Hashish tops list

THE devastating effects of narcotics has been viewed with considerable concern by Kuwaiti authorities and in a determined bid to address this "cancer," a national committee was formed which is headed by the minister of the interior.

Responding to another question, the energy secretary said that forecasts suggest that Britain's oil production will continue until the end of this century, while gas will remain longer than that.

The projection is that production will continue at least for the next 15-20 years at the present rate, which is around two million barrels per day.

Wakeham recalled that Britain is the seventh largest oil producer in the world.

On nuclear stations in the UK, the minister said that the British government is freezing the building of any new stations until 1994.

Following that year there would be a review, in order to decide the future moves, he concluded.

This law stipulated various levels of punishment for both smugglers and addicts and could include life imprisonment in some instances. The law also provides for issuing capital punishment in case of resistance to security forces resulting in the death of any official.

Security

The official said that viewing the number of cases, he advocated no leniency of the law for drug smugglers and traders. He cited the following seizures effected by security forces: five

kilos of heroin; 20 kilos of hashish; half a kilo of opium; 19 grammes of marijuana; 300,000 Cipatagon pills and about 10,000 assorted narcotic pills. These quantities were seized during last year. During the same period, security forces at the airport apprehended 49 kilos of hashish, seven kilos of heroin, 87 grammes of opium, 2 kilos of marijuana; 12 morphine injections; 375,000 Cipatagon pills and 5,000 valium pills.

The official said that there is close co-operation with all departments of the security forces, including the Ministry of Public Health to ensure that the usage of drugs is kept to the minimum possible.

List

On the most common forms of drugs, Farhan said that hashish heads the list, followed by heroin and then opium. Commenting on qat (a plant grown usually in Yemen), he said that this plant is considered to be a narcotic species and is prohibited just like other narcotics.

On planting narcotics in Kuwait, Farhan said that

though, there have been some isolated cases, security forces keep a close watch on all areas where this plant could be cultivated and do conduct surprise checks.

Commenting on the use of Patek and Benzene as narcotics by some youths, he said that these materials are considered to be dangerous, but as there is no law prohibiting their imports, it becomes difficult, if not impossible to institute legal proceedings. He disclosed that 65 per cent of addicts who use these substances are between 19 to 30 years of age. However, he said that if families, or peers report individuals, security personnel do intervene to ensure that the culprit desists in pursuing this bad habit.

He went on to state that Kuwait is in close proximity to the Golden Triangle countries of Asia which are considered to be the sources of major drug supplies. Expatriates coming to work from these countries have been known to try and smuggle various forms of narcotics, but, invariably have been apprehended by security forces, Farhan said.

Cameras to monitor KU libraries

DEAN of the Science College at Kuwait University, Dr Adnan Al Aqel said that all activities at the library premises and halls will be closely monitored through the introduction of state-of-the-art television cameras.

The official indicated that the college administration is compelled to take such measures after all other alternatives failed to preserve order at the library. He added that some students disturb the peace and tranquillity of the library during the period other students are engrossed in the pursuit of their studies at the library.

He pointed out that mounting these television cameras will resolve many problems, besides providing a quite atmosphere for students. It will also contribute to preserving orderly handling of books and periodicals. The system which is to be operational within the few days will enable officials to supervise the entire library via television Aqel said.

The librarian of the Science Library, Rima Yasseen stated that installing the new system will provide officials easy access to pinpoint violators and to take immediate remedial measures.

In a related development, other university libraries such as Commerce, Economy and Political Sciences College have contracted to mount identical systems at the respective libraries.

Freak of nature

A freak potato resembling a puppy was bought by a Kuwaiti housewife Umm Mohammed at the Kuwait wholesale market on Thursday.

Nursing profession

Kuwaiti women still abstain

A LOCAL daily has carried out a series of interviews with different members of the nursing staff operating at Kuwait's hospitals to shed light on the most socially frowned upon profession and get facts from the nurses' mouths about the common problems affecting the lives of the "angels of mercy."

The quest attempted,

among other things, to establish why nursing is the most underfunded profession in Kuwait, and why families still find the work of a nurse a breach of the social code, and even though women have been emancipated the late hours of work and the fact that they have to mix with male nurses and doctors keep women away from the profession.

The head nurse at the Ibn Sina Hospital and member of the Nursing Society said that the nurse carried the whole bulk of the nursing duties and is professionally responsible for the patient's performance.

The head nurse of the school

of the nurse's work is behind the decline of Kuwaiti women joining this vital sector, and what is worse is the fact that men abstain from marrying nurses.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE time to stop a revolution is at the beginning, not the end — Adlai Stevenson, US statesman-politician (1900-1965).

Rift in party

Lisbon Reds won't reform

LOURES, Portugal. (AP): The winds of change have forced communist parties across Europe to bend toward reform, but the Portuguese Communist Party remains firmly on a Marxist-Leninist course with leader Alvaro Cunhal at the helm.

"Our party continues to declare itself a Marxist-Leninist party... few of our comrades have expressed the opinion that the PCP should follow the path that other communist parties have tread," Cunhal said Friday to cheers and clenched fist salutes from the more than 2,000 congress delegates.

The charismatic, white-haired Cunhal, a feisty 76, has dominated the PCP since taking over as general secretary in 1961.

His re-election to the office Sunday was unanimous, despite hints made earlier this year that he could retire at the Congress in Loures, a bastion of communist support, 20 kilometres (12 miles) outside Lisbon.

His decision to stay on could worry a growing number of party reformers demanding glasnost-style change.

But the congress also elected Carlos Carvalhos, a 48-year-old economist who heads the party's delegates in the European Parliament at Strasbourg, France, to the new post of assistant secretary-general.

The combination of hardline Cunhal's re-election with Carvalhos' nomination as a more pragmatic heir-apparent, might help heal the rift between reforming militants and the orthodox old guard.

An outspoken group of dissidents is calling for the PCP to modernise its electoral programme in keeping with the realignment of East and West and Portugal's development as a stable democracy within the 12-nation European Economic Community.

They also want the PCP to introduce greater democracy and openness in its own structures and procedures.

But up to now, the leadership has dealt firmly with the dissenters.

Leading woman's rights campaigner Zita Seabra was expelled from the party in January after she argued for Cunhal's resignation, a change in the party's name and the adoption of a new programme abandoning traditional ideology.

And trade union official Jose Judas, another leading critic, was barred from attending the Loures congress. Other critics have been dismissed from their Central Committee positions.

In his speech, Cunhal accused the reformists of "forming factions that act in a conspiratorial and organised way within the party, and carrying out a media campaign that places their action in a wider anti-communist campaign against the party."

"This will not be permitted," he warned.

Cunhal's critics say the party must reform to halt an electoral decline that has seen the PCP's national vote fall from 21 per cent in 1979 to 14 per cent in local elections last December.

The collapse of communist governments across Eastern Europe has brought some changes. Cunhal admits the mistake of his former comrades in the East who "committed serious errors and isolated themselves from their people."

Cunhal also gives verbal backing to the perestroika reforms of Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, but he has kept an iron-fisted rule over the party apparatus, permitting no dissent.

In media reports earlier this year, for example, he said aggressive anti-socialist forces backed by Western imperialism in Eastern Europe could "compromise the building of socialism."

Unlike other communist parties in Europe, the PCP supported the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia in 1968 and in Afghanistan in 1980. It also was silent on the Chinese massacre near Tiananmen Square last year and sent a delegation to the Romanian Communist Party congress last year before Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown.

Despite media reports of ill-health, Cunhal proved at the congress he had lost one of his fiery public-speaking style, addressing delegations in Loures' Hall of Peace and Friendship with two lengthy speeches that were frequently interrupted by applause and chants of "PCP PCP."

Cunhal was elected party leader after escaping from 12 years of imprisonment under a rightist dictatorship that ruled Portugal for 48 years before an army-led 1974 revolution paved the way for a return to democracy.

His more than 40 years of underground resistance to the dictatorship, that included long periods of imprisonment and torture at the hands of the infamous PIDE secret police, earned Cunhal legendary status among his PCP followers and respect from his political opponents.

Judas said recently Cunhal will continue to run the party even after he retires.

"It's a hit like (veteran Chinese communist leader) Deng Xiaoping, even when he leaves the leadership it's him that commands."

But Judas insisted the party will have to accept further changes. "In the future, being a communist won't be the same thing as being a communist in 1917... if the communist parties don't change, adapt, then they'll disappear."

Judas refuted criticism that the party's reformers have their support limited to Lisbon intellectuals, while the PCP powerbase among the factory workers from the industrial belt around Lisbon and the farm labourers of the southern Alentejo province remain loyal to the old guard.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1719 — Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI founds Oriental Company in Vienna to compete with Dutch trade in the Orient.
 1860 — Force under Italian patriot Giuseppe Garibaldi invades Sicily and captures city of Palermo.
 1905 — Japanese annihilate Russian fleet of 32 ships in Tsushima Straits off Korea.
 1918 — German forces launch intensive offensive on Western Front in World War I.
 1927 — Japan intervenes in Shantung, blocking advance of Chinese Nationalists on Peking.
 1936 — Britain's luxury liner Queen Mary begins maiden voyage across Atlantic Ocean.
 1941 — German battleship Bismarck is sunk by British navy off France in World War II, with loss of 2,300 lives.
 1956 — India claims suzerainty over Chitral, which has been under Pakistani rule since 1947.
 1960 — Government of premier Adnan Menderes and president Celal Bayar is overthrown in Turkey, and Gen. Cemal Gürsel assumes presidency.
 1961 — Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaya's premier, proposes great Malaysia federation.
 1971 — Soviet Union signs 15-year pact with Egypt, pledging assistance to recovery of all Arab territories occupied by Israel.
 1972 — US President Richard Nixon flies to Leningrad and visits graves of victims of Nazi siege in World War II.
 1984 — Hundreds of parliamentarians from Austria, Britain, France, Norway, United States and West Germany at Paris conference join growing criticism of Soviet Union for human rights violations.
 1985 — Typhoon in Bangladesh takes at least 3,000 lives, according to the Red Cross. News reports put the death toll at 20,000.
 1988 — Syrian troops move into Beirut's southern slums, halting three weeks of savage street battles between rival Shi'ite Muslim factions.
 1989 — US President George Bush meets with Italian leaders in Rome as White House says US will not withdraw American troops from Europe without consulting first with Western allies.

Burma goes to the polls

First multi-party election in 30 years

RANGOON, Burma. (AP): Burma is holding its first multi-party elections in 30 years today, but two of the military government's main opponents are under house arrest and a third is in prison.

Diplomats stationed in Rangoon have described the election as a cynical exercise by heavy-handed military rulers, but some analysts believe it will create a form of party politics that may evolve slowly toward democracy.

The military junta, which brutally suppressed a pro-democracy uprising in 1988, has allowed scores of parties to form since and promises the election will be free and fair.

Parliament

More than 2,300 candidates — independents and representatives of 93 parties — are running for the 485 parliament seats. Election officials say 18,900 voting stations will be provided and ballots will be counted in the presence of candidates' representatives.

Critics point out that, however scrupulous the attention to election rules, most of Burma is under martial law, many opposition politicians have been arrested and outsiders are not welcome.

Burma has not approved applications by foreign correspondents to report on the election and, on May 15, even stopped issuing visas to tourists.

"There is no freedom of speech, there is no freedom of assembly," said one diplomat in the Burmese capital. "Under those particular restrictions, it is already not a free and fair election. It is farcical that those people want to vote for are not in the elections."

Aung San Suu Ki, the most popular opposition leader, was placed under house arrest in July 1989 for violations of security laws. The other main leader of her National League for Democracy, Tin Oo, is serving a three-year prison term.

Former prime minister U Nu, Burma's last democratically elected leader, was put under house arrest in December. U Nu, now 84, was ousted in a 1962 coup led by Gen. Ne Win.

Despite arrests of its leaders and some internal rifts, the National League for Democracy is clearly the most popular party in the election. It is one of six to enter candidates for more than 100 of the Parliament seats.

The party's popularity is due in large measure to Sun Kyi, daughter of Burmese independence hero Aung San. She emerged as a brave, charismatic leader during the democracy movement of 1988.

The League and other parties have held some rallies, but their focus is on party organisation and door-to-door efforts rather than public display.

Security is tight in Rangoon, but Western diplomats do not force a replay of the 1988 uprising, when soldiers shot down several thousand demonstrators in the capital.

Burma's numerous rebel groups, including students who fled the repression, are known to have plans to disrupt voting in more remote areas.

The National League for Democracy's main opponent is the National Unity Party, the richest and best organised political group. It is the successor of the Burma Socialist Programme Party, the military-backed organisation that controlled the country for 26 years and led it to economic ruin.

Four other opposition parties are considered to have some popular backing, but Burmese political analysts say none will win a parliamentary majority unless the election is manipulated. That means a coalition.

Leading opponent under detention

BANGKOK, Thailand. (AP): Election day in Burma will be the 312th day of house arrest for a former housewife and academic who most analysts believe could lead her party to victory if she were free to do so.

Until two years ago, Aung San Kyi was virtually unknown. Today, she is the country's most popular political figure.

When the generals put her under house arrest July 20, 1989, they hoped to silence their most vocal critic. It didn't work.

"She has now become more or less a martyr figure," said a Burmese expatriate in Bangkok. "She embodies everything the Burmese people aspire to."

Suu Kyi, 44, is graceful and articulate. She emerged as the star of Burma's hazardous political stage less than two years ago, at the height of a national uprising for democracy that was brutally crushed.

Her father, Aung San, is revered in Burma as the leader of the movement for independence from



Gen. Ne Win



Suu Kyi

Facts and figures

BANGKOK, Thailand. (AP): Here are some facts and figures about Burma:

The land — Burma is about the size of France, bounded on land by India, China, Thailand and Laos. Rangoon, population 3.5 million, is the capital and largest city. Mandalay, in the heart of the country, is the second-largest city and the centre of traditional culture.

The people — Most of the 41 million people are Burmese. Important minorities include Chinese, Indians, Karen, Shan, Chin and Kachin. About 85 per cent of the population practices Buddhism.

The ruling military council led by Gen. Saw Maung has said it will not relinquish power until a government is formed and a new constitution written, which is expected to take some time.

"It's all set up; the government is going to pull all the strings," Jose Silverstein, a leading US scholar on Burma, said in an interview from the United States.

"I think they could tell you what the vote is going to be like. They're now trying to figure out how to divide the votes among the parties."

Other foreign analysts stress pre-election man-

oeuvring and intimidation by the generals rather than possible rigging of the vote.

Amnesty International, the human rights group based in London, accused Burmese authorities of rounding up hundreds of people, possibly thousands, and said torture was widespread.

Many diplomats believe one motive for relocating about 500,000 people from cities into the countryside is to have better control of the election.

"There is no rule of law," one said. "The big question is if the Burmese will really dare vote for the opposition parties."

She studied at Oxford University and married an English academic in 1972. Later, she began an academic career of her own and worked for the United Nations.

The political programme of her National League for Democracy is vague, but Suu Kyi has referred in many speeches to the non-violent liberation movement led by Mohandas K. Gandhi of India and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the United States.

Before her detention, tens of thousands of people defied martial law and heavily armed soldiers to hear her speak.

After being put under house arrest, she began a hunger strike to demand humane treatment for imprisoned supporters. She took only liquids for nearly two weeks, until the government gave guarantees.

"Martin Luther King said to the people 'I have a dream,'" she told a reporter last year. "Well, it is the same with us. We just want to bring our dreams to reality."

Donor countries want the Unhcr to limit the scope of its operations to the survival of refugees — food, water and housing — and leave education and self-help programmes to other specialised bodies," said Hall.

A follow-up meeting is scheduled from May 28 in Geneva. Delegates are expected to review the agency's financial situation and approve a 13 per cent cut in staff at the Geneva headquarters and a seven per cent reduction of field operators.

But escalating costs alone do not explain the Unhcr's dramatic financial difficulties.

Governments and public opinion are increasingly wary of an ever-swelling and seemingly endless refugee tide and are turning their attention to other issues.

"Compassion fatigue has set in and there is a limit to what donor countries are willing or able to do," said Vieira de Mello.

Hall pointed out that the number of refugees worldwide doubled over the last decade while the agency's resources increased by only 25 per cent. "Contributions have simply kept pace with our requirements," he added.

Refugee officials say humanitarian causes face increasing competition from issues such as the need to rebuild Eastern Europe after the collapse of communist rule, pressing environmental problems and the war against drugs.

QUOTE ME

UN agency is penniless

GENEVA, (Reuter): The Nobel prize-winning UN agency catering for 15 million refugees around the world is broke.

The office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (Unhcr), which depends on voluntary contributions from governments, says its financial situation is so desperate that it could "result in unacceptable suffering and could even take its toll in terms of human lives."

The Unhcr needs \$80 million to make ends meet this year and examples abound of the day-to-day problems it faces while trying to provide food and shelter to refugees to Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Afford

Staff say the agency cannot afford to buy food or blankets for 800,000 Mozambicans who have fled civil strife into neighbouring Malawi.

"In Ethiopia, where a new famine is looming, we are unable to set up buffer stocks of foods, while in some refugee camps in Sudan and Malawi, malnutrition has already gone up by 30 per cent," said Unhcr spokesman Raymond Hall.

"The long-term prospects are frightening," he added.

On the Indonesian island of Galang, a camp currently housing 12,000 Vietnamese boat people was built for 2,000.

"This means that the extra 10,000 have to sleep on the beach and we can't even buy plastic sheeting for them," said Sergio Vieira de Mello, head of the agency's Asia and Oceania division.

"More refugees, less resources" was how high commissioner Thorvald Stoltenberg of Norway summed up the situation he found on taking over from Jean-Pierre Hocke in January.

Hocke resigned in November. He had been blamed for rising costs and low staff morale.

The 52-year-old Swiss national ran the Unhcr for nearly five years and during his tenure the agency went beyond mere emergency assistance, branching out into education, self-help and social services programmes which have sent costs soaring.

Caters

But Unhcr officials also point out that the agency, which was set up in 1951 to deal with one million displaced people in Europe, now caters for 15 million on five continents.

The number of staff has risen to 2,400 from 60 in the mid-1950s when the Unhcr won its first Nobel peace prize for taking care of post-war refugees.

It won the Nobel prize again in 1981 after coping successfully with a trebling of the world refugee population in a decade, the result of an exodus of Vietnamese after the communist takeover, the war in Afghanistan and civil strife in the Horn of Africa.

Vieira de Mello feels the UN body should return to its original mandate and hand over some of its activities to other specialised agencies and non-governmental organisations.

"There is a great need for rationalisation, going back to basics," he said.

This is precisely what the Unhcr's 43-nation executive committee, which groups major donors such as the United States, the European Economic Community and Japan, recommended at a meeting last October.

Scope

Donor countries want the Unhcr to limit the scope of its operations to the survival of refugees — food, water and housing — and leave education and self-help programmes to other issues.

"Compassion fatigue has set in and there is a limit to what donor countries are willing or able to do," said Vieira de Mello.

Hall pointed out that the number of refugees worldwide doubled over the last decade while the agency's resources increased by only 25 per cent. "Contributions have simply kept pace with our requirements," he added.

Refugee officials

Kashmiris seek new policy, not new man

SRINAGAR, India, May 26. (Reuters): The departure of Kashmir's hardline Governor Jagmohan and his replacement by a former spy chief means little unless it heralds a new policy to deal with a separatist revolt, Kashmiris said today.

Jagmohan, the architect of India's tough policy towards a Kashmiri Muslim secessionist campaign, resigned yesterday five months after he was appointed.

He was replaced by Girish Saxena, 63, security adviser to Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh and his predecessor Rajiv Gandhi and former head of India's External Intelligence Agency.

In a resignation letter to President Ramaswamy Venkataraman, Jagmohan said he had become controversial and his presence in

Kashmir was an obstacle to bringing militants into the mainstream of Indian life, official sources said.

Jagmohan, installed as governor when the secessionist revolt erupted in mid-January, was widely reviled in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

But his departure came too late, said Abdul Razib Kabuli, a moderate former Kashmiri Member of India's Parliament.

"The basic issues involved will not change," he said.

"It's gone beyond the issue of one man, even though that man was a terrorist and a murderer," he said, reflecting the passionate feelings in Srinagar, the state's summer capital.

Those feelings intensified when the Kashmir

Valley's senior Muslim cleric, Maulvi Mohammad Farooq, was assassinated on Monday by three unidentified gunmen.

As mourners took his body onto the curvaceous streets in procession, they were fired on by paramilitary police. At least 50 people were killed, hospital doctors said.

No Muslim in Srinagar appeared to believe the government's claim that militants in the crowd fired first. All seemed to believe the assassination was at Jagmohan's orders.

The bloodshed appeared to broaden and deepen support for some 44 secessionist groups.

Some want to join Muslim Pakistan. Most want independence.

"There is total involvement in the struggle now. It is a total revolt of the masses," Kahuli

said.

"We want to decide our fate. Where is the harm? Where is the crime in that? How can a country that describes itself as the world's biggest democracy deny us this?" he asked.

Reporters moving around the city were greeted with chants of "freedom" and "no compromise."

In an interview with Reuters on Thursday a day before he resigned, Jagmohan said he believed his policies would work.

"First terrorism must be eliminated," he said.

After that, he said, people who were now cowed by gunmen could say what they really felt and normal democratic policies could resume.

The first stage of that policy, however,

appears to have alienated that three million Muslims of the Kashmir Valley.

"Jagmohan had to go," said one senior non-Kashmiri state official. "His policies had succeeded in spreading support for the independence movement to every corner of the valley."

Jagmohan's policies included house-to-house searches for militants, their financiers and weapons.

Many whose houses were searched complained of abuse and theft by the largely Hindu paramilitary troops.

Some alleged that people sitting quietly in their homes were seized and shot in the road outside.

Relatives of cousins Meraj-ud-Din Lone, 20, and Ghulam Mohammad Shafiqi, 42, told

such a story to reporters yesterday.

The two men said they were taken outside along with a 20-year-old woman, Jalla Banoo, after troops were attacked by militants about one kilometre (less than a mile) away.

"Meraj asked for water and they stuffed his mouth with dirt. Then they shot all three," said his brother Mushtaq Ahmed.

Jagmohan, in his interview with Reuters, said all such stories were militants' propaganda spread at gunpoint.

"It was stupid of him to say such things," said another senior non-Kashmiri state official.

"We all know there were excesses by the paramilitary elsewhere in India. How could there be none here?" he said.

No policy change: Kashmir governor

Saxena offers ray of hope

SRINAGAR, May 26. (Reuters): The new governor of India's Jammu and Kashmir state said today there would be no change in policy to combat a violent secessionist movement following the sudden removal of his hated predecessor.

Former national intelligence chief Girish Saxena told reporters India's fight against militant Muslim secessionists would be a tough one.

"It cannot be underestimated and we have no illusions, but what needs to be done will be done," Saxena said after taking the oath as

governor of India's only Muslim-majority state. The ceremony was held before an audience mainly comprising civil servants and security force personnel at the governor's mansion in Srinagar, the state's summer capital. None of the Kashmiri dignitaries who would normally attend was present.

Muslims blamed Saxena's predecessor, Governor Jagmohan, for the killing of Kashmir's chief Muslim cleric, Maulvi Mohammed Farooq, shot dead at his home on Monday.

At least 50 people were killed and 300 injured on Tuesday when security forces fired on Farooq's funeral procession in Srinagar. Jagmohan was summoned to Delhi and removed within a day yesterday.

Saxena offered one ray of hope to people who regard the Indian security forces as an occupation army.

"I will review the machinery for considering grievances. If necessary, the machinery will be streamlined, improved and made effective," he said.

Many people in Srinagar complain they have no way of finding relatives retained in frequent house-to-house searches for militants and arms.

They also complain of abuse of women and their children. Allegations of torture and summary executions of suspect militants are widespread.

Jagmohan denied all such charges, but Saxena indicated he would take action to prevent abuses. "It is our intention that no innocent persons should be hurt or harassed," he said.

But he said there would be no easing of the fight against the militants, although his aim was to restore normal democratic politics.

"The first priority must be to restore normalcy to this beautiful valley," he said. "Those who indulge in murder and kidnapping will have to be dealt with firmly."

He said curfews, imposed frequently since the secessionist campaign erupted in violence in mid-January just after Jagmohan's appointment, would continue and might get tougher, even though they crippled economic life.

"If the situation requires curfews to be kept on or even made more severe, it will be done," Saxena said.

At least 550 people have been killed in clashes between protesters and troops this year. The bloodshed appeared to broaden support for a variety of secessionist groups, some of which want to join Muslim Pakistan. Most want independence.

Saxena said India would not let Kashmir secede and talks with the militants could only take place within the framework of the Indian constitution, a condition they have rejected.

"There is no change in policy, in the aims and objectives of the government," he said.

Deharpore acknowledged some administrative problems but denied corruption problems.

"It's unfair to say there has been widespread abuse," he said. "The best the audit can say is that it could have happened. Well, a lot of things could have happened."

He acknowledged that the charity had terminated its relationship with some organisations and was seeking repayment for lost or stolen food. In one case, 2,000 bags of food, worth \$20,000, disappeared from one warehouse.

Quotations of food stored in warehouses did not tally with written records of food delivered to and distributed from these warehouses, a US official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Proper quantities of food were not distributed to



Protest march

Leaders and activists of Bangladesh's right-wing Muslim League Party stage a protest march in Dhaka May 26 against what they called genocide by the Indian army in the Muslim-majority state of Kashmir. At least 325 people have been killed in clashes in Kashmir between the army and the militants demanding independence. (Reuters wirephoto)

Call for Kashmir solution

JEDDAH, May 26. (Kuwait): The Organisation of the Islamic Conference yesterday called for a peaceful settlement to the problem of Kashmir and enabling the people of Kashmir to exercise their right to self-determination.

The OIC has been following up with great anxiety the deteriorating situation in Kashmir and escalation of tension between Pakistan and India, said a statement released by the OIC's Secretary-General Dr Hamid Al Ghadban.

The regional and international press has been publishing on daily basis reports on massacres and arrest of hundreds of people and rape of women in Kashmir, said the statement.

The OIC cannot tolerate repressive measures against the people of Kashmir, said the statement and added that the basic rights of the people of Kashmir should be respected and efforts should be exerted to ensure peace and security in this part of the world.

We have received with great sorrow reports on the massacre carried out by Indian regular troops and paramilitary forces in Kashmir during the funeral procession of Maulvi Mohammad Farooq, the famous Muslim leader, recently assassinated by a group of Hindus in distressing circumstances, added the statement.

The Indian embassy was closed Thursday and its diplomatic corps ordered to leave the country within 14 days after the government accused the Indian government of interfering in Fiji's internal affairs.

India has opposed Fiji's readmission to the British Commonwealth and recently imposed a trade ban against the tiny South Pacific nation of 720,000.

Slightly more than half the population is of Indian descent but the native Fijians control the army.

The closure of the Indian embassy is the latest incident in the cooling relations between the two countries since the military coups of May and September 1987.

The coups, led by Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka in the name of

Indian-called strike falters

Fiji capital normal

SUVA, May 26. (UPI): A "day of protest" strike called by Fiji's ethnic Indian leaders yesterday to protest the closure of the Indian embassy received only mixed support from the country's Indian community.

The country's two main forms of transport, buses and taxis — which are mostly Indian-owned — were operating normally. In the capital, Suva, many ethnic Indian office workers reported for work, although Indian schools and Indian-owned shops and businesses were closed.

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The coups, led by Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka in the name of

preserving Fijian rights, overthrew the Indian-dominated Labour-National Federation Party coalition which was voted into government in April 1987.

Rabuka claimed impending legislation by the coalition would strip indigenous Fijians of their land rights.

The leader of Fiji's opposition party coalition said his country's closure of Indian embassy was a "veiled threat" to opposition and Fiji-Indian leaders.

"I think it is a veiled threat both internally and to countries in the region which might be sympathetic to our cause," said Adi Kuniwi Bavadra, leader of the multi-racial, ethnic Indian Indo-Fijian coalition party.

But a spokesman for Fiji Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara — who has promised to begin working on behalf of "indigenous Fijians" — suggested in a statement from Suva that Bavadra was not a "loyal citizen of Fiji."

"This is not an isolated action," said Bavadra, who arrived in Canberra Wednesday for a 12-day visit to Australia. "This has been a planned action by the interim administration to assert their political power against any kind of opposition that would dare test the political hold that they have on the people of Fiji."

Pepsi goes to India

First time in 28 years

NEW DELHI, India, May 25. (AP): Pepsi-Cola went on sale in India for the first time in 28 years Wednesday following a bitter five-year battle to sell the US soft drink in the tightly controlled Indian market.

Pepsi, Seven-Up and Mirinda, an orange soda, bit the market in Jaipur, capital of the western state of Rajasthan, said Christopher Sinclair, president of Pepsi-Cola International. In the coming weeks, the drinks will be sold throughout the country, he said.

As part of an agreement with the Indian government to "Indianise" the drinks, they will carry the prefix lehar, meaning "wave" in Hindi.

To sweeten the pot, Sinclair unveiled a 10-year, \$1 billion investment project for India. Targeted will be bottlers, distributors and other small businessmen.

He also released a copy of a letter written to US trade representative Carla Hills in which he urged the US government not to take action against India for alleged unfair trading practices under the super 301 process.

Still, the compromises are expected to pay off, say analysts, who believe Pepsi is poised to dominate the market.

In eastern Trincomalee town a Sinhalese woman, Piayessi Silva, complained yesterday to the police that her husband, Sena, a prominent businessman had been abducted

drinks a year, compared to 13 in neighbouring Pakistan, 38 in Thailand and 550 in the United States.

Pepsi doesn't have any competition from its foes, Coca-Cola. To March, the Indian government turned down a Coke proposal to build a \$3 million soft drink plant.

Still, many view the Pepsi announcement as the last good news for foreign investment here. With the fall of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in November, India appears to have ended its brief economic liberalisation and is again closing its markets to foreigners. Prime Minister V. P. Singh recently said India is interested only in foreign investment in high technology.

Last year, foreign investment totalled only \$200 million and this year isn't expected to be much better.

Pepsi's experiences here read like a test case of the difficulties of investing in India, analysts say.

Pepsi has been accused of paying bribes, unfair business practices and even possible links to terrorists. Its investment proposal faced more than 20 parliamentary debates and 15 committee reviews.

In a last-minute move, the government forced Pepsi to change the name of the soft drink from Pepsi Era to lehar Pepsi because Era wasn't considered sufficiently "Indian." The action cost Pepsi \$150,000 in bottle fees.

Indian envoy revives religion

HONG KONG, May 26. (Reuters): India's ambassador to Mongolia is a Buddhist monk who is an authority on the state of Mongolian Buddhism after seven decades of communism.

Kushok Bakula, who has just taken up his appointment, is also an authority on a religious revival now sweeping the sparsely populated, windswept steppes of the country three times the size of France.

"For 70 long years there has been almost no religion in Mongolia," Bakula, vice-president of the Mongolian-based Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace, said in an interview during a brief visit to Hong Kong.

The communists took power in Mongolia in 1921, systematically repressed Buddhism and banned religion between 1937 and 1944.

Monasteries were closed, destroyed or desecrated and 100 leading monks executed, the abbot of Gandan monastery in the Mongolian capital, Ulan Bator, said recently.

Gandan is now the only functioning monastery in Mongolia.

Although suppression softened, the Tibetan Yellow Hat sect tradition of Buddhism practised in Mongolia continued to suffer.

"The most damaging was that people lost contact with Buddhism," says Bakula, wearing the maroon robes of Mahayana Buddhists and running beads through his fingers.

"There were no monasteries, monastic traditions were lost and there was no teaching," he said.

"The monks now in Gandan monastery are not qualified to be monks."

Aspiring Buddhist Lamas there could not start monastic training before finishing secondary school and military service.

"By then they were too old and often had lost interest," said Bakula. "Mongolian Buddhists have long wanted monastic training to start when boys are six years old."

Monks needed permission to appoint assistants and preaching in the countryside was forbidden. Buddhists were forced underground, shunning the officially sanctioned organisations.

Bakula, who was taken into a monastery in his native Indian Himalayan region of Ladakh at six and then studied at Tibet's Drepung monastery in Lhasa until he was 24, said Gandan now had only 150 monks. Before 1921, 120,000 monks pruned in 747 monasteries throughout the country.

"But the figure of 150 monks is not small if you consider the conditions they have had to deal with," Bakula, 74, said through an interpreter. "At least the process is there."

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World News Roundup

America

Train jumps tracks: A freight train derailed and a tanker car carrying grain alcohol exploded, sending a fireball into the sky and forcing the evacuation of 750 area residents.

Fifteen of the train's 90 cars derailed late Thursday in Covington, Tennessee. Eight of those contained flammable ethyl alcohol, authorities said.

Police reopen reservation: New York state police are allowing non-residents to enter this troubled Mohawk reservation for the first time in more than three weeks, authorities said.

State police barred all non-residents from entering St Regis Indian Reservation May 1, after two Indians died in gunfire between anti- and pro-gambling Mohawk factions. (AP)

Activists arrested: Two members of a radical environmentalist group have been arrested in connection with a pipe bomb that blew apart their car, injuring them both, police said Friday in Oakland, California.

Judi Bari, 40, and Darryl Cherney, 33, were booked for investigation of possession and transportation of explosives, said Oakland Police Lt Mike Sims. (AP)

Klan can wear masks: Ku Klux Klan members can wear hooded masks in public, a state judge said Friday, ruling a 39-year-old law designed to prohibit white supremacists from concealing their faces is unconstitutional.

State attorneys argued that abandoning the law will lead to a resurgence of Klan violence.

The law is overly broad and violates Klan members' rights to free speech, association and protection under the law, state court judge Howard E. Cook ruled in Gwinnett County. (UPI)

Peace climbers 'back home: Jim Whitaker, leader of the "Mount Everest International Peace Climb," said Friday the expedition was even more successful than expected and demonstrated what co-operation between peoples of the world can accomplish.

US climbers who took part in the first joint ascent of Everest with mountaineers from the Soviet Union and China returned to the United States Friday after spending a bout two months conquering the world's tallest peak.

The climb "fulfilled our goal of friendship and co-operation," said Whitaker, 61, the leader of the expedition. "It shows that when we all work together, the highest goals can be reached." (UPI)

Ex-Nazi faces visa fraud charges: For the second time in three weeks, authorities in Honolulu have arrested an American who was a former member of the Nazi SS who failed to disclose his past when he applied for a US visa.

Stefan Paul, 65, of Stuttgart, West Germany, arrived in Honolulu on Thursday on vacation. A immigration computer check showed he had served as a concentration camp guard during World War II, according to the US attorney's office here.

Under US law, former concentration camp guards are not to be issued US visas under any circumstances, according to a sworn statement by immigration inspector Joseph Rogers. (AP)

Soviet help in drug bust: A visiting Moscow police official spoke Russian while juggling a hotel doorknob, spurring the curious drug suspect inside to open the door to arresting police, authorities in Deland, Florida reported.

The visiting Soviet and his Deland police interpreter "posed as Russians attempting to gain access to the wrong room," said Deland Sgt Steve Dovi.

The Deland Hilton room occupants called hotel security, who came up to the room, police said. The occupants then opened the door to see what was going on and Moscow police Col V.T. Bobryakov pushed the door open further to allow police officers in. (AP)

Coast Guard rejects proposal: The Coast Guard rejects proposals that it seek greater control over foreign-flagged cruise ships owned by US companies and carrying mostly US passengers, according to a letter released Thursday in Washington.

The letter from Coast Guard Commandant Paul Yost to the National Transportation Safety Board agrees with some of the board's recommendations for improving cruise ship safety.

But Yost said he favours pursuing most safety improvements through the International Maritime Organization, since they then would apply to vessels world-wide and protect more US citizens. (AP)

Student exchange agreement: American University and Moscow State University Law School, which is Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's alma mater, have signed an agreement to exchange students beginning in September 1990. American University officials said Friday.

The three-year contract provides for exchanges of students and faculty.

Two Soviet graduate law students and a Soviet professor of criminal statistics will attend American University in Washington. Four to eight American University undergraduate or graduate students will go to the Soviet law school for one to two semesters. (UPI)

Reagan sick

No travel to Europe

LOS ANGELES, May 26. (AP): Former president Ronald Reagan must cancel a trip to Europe and limit his activities for several weeks because of complications from cancer surgery in 1975, a spokesman said.

But Reagan, 79, still plans to fly to San Francisco next month to meet with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, spokesman Mark Weinberg said yesterday.

"Several small adhesions have developed in president Reagan's small intestine, which his physicians believe are a result of his abdominal surgery in 1985," Weinberg said.

Adhesions often appear after abdominal surgery and are rarely serious, said Zbigniew Petrovich, a specialist in colorectal cancer at the University of Southern California.

His surgeon Duncan Walker said "We hope Stephen can lead as normal a childhood as possible." (Kuna)

Europe

Police question: British police were Saturday questioning a man after a fire at a mosque near London.

Thames Valley police, outside London, said they were treating the blaze as arson and a racial attack after burning cans of petrol were placed outside the front door of the mosque in Peveril Drive, Milton Keynes, near the British capital, yesterday.

The fire, which was extinguished by police, caused slight damage to the entrance, the police said.

So far, no further details about the man's identity or motive were available. (Kuna)

Heart-lung patient: Three-year-old Stephen Hollis, Britain's youngest heart-lung transplant patient, has left hospital with a new life ahead of him, it was reported Saturday.

Three weeks ago he was critically ill and was given a new heart and lungs at Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds, Northern England.

Since then his progress has been "spectacular," and last night his parents drove him to a surprise reception.

His surgeon Duncan Walker said "We hope Stephen can lead as normal a childhood as possible." (Kuna)

Arsonists attack: Arsonists staged fresh attacks against Sweden's refugee community at the weekend, hurling a smoke bomb among sleeping families and burning several caravans.

Police said the assailants were unknown but described them as racists. They said nobody as seriously hurt in the incidents. Refugees have not been the victims of four such attacks.

Eleven спутников people were taken to hospital for observation after a smoke canister was thrown at their hostel in Molata, southern Sweden, on Friday night. (Reuter)

Black Sea resort: A Black Sea resort once reserved for upper-echelon Communist Party officials in Bulgaria will be transformed into one of Club Mediterranean's trademark vacation "villages," an official said Friday.

Officials at Club Med, as the French resort empire is popularly known, said a contract will be signed with Bulgarian Tourism Minister Stoyan Zhulev within a few days. (AP)

Arms find: Irish police were Saturday questioning two men after they found a "substantial" arms find in the Irish Republic, it was reported in Dublin.

The suspects were detained under the anti-terrorist legislation after being stopped in a van on the outskirts of Limerick in the Irish Republic.

In the vehicle were boxes of Klashnikov assault rifles and Semtex, the IRA's favourite bomb-making explosive, Irish police said. (Kuna)

Minimise sun-bathing: Health officials warned Americans Thursday to minimise sun-bathing, saying the death rate from the most deadly form of skin cancer linked to sunlight exposure jumped more than 25 per cent to the last decade.

The number of malignant melanoma deaths increased 25.9 per cent between 1973 and 1985, the latest years for which figures are available, the US Centres for Disease Control said in its morbidity and mortality weekly report.

The increase represented the largest jump in fatalities from any type of cancer during the 12-year period except that of the lung, the CDC report said.

White men, who experienced a 34.1 per cent fatality rate increase from the cancer between 1973 and 1985, are the most vulnerable to the disease, the report said.

The CDC estimates 27,000 new cases of the disease developed in 1989 and 6,000 victims died.

Symptoms of the cancer — the most deadly of skin cancers — include a drastic change in a mole or a change in skin colour. Early detection can help reduce the risk of death, caused by the spread of the malignancy to other organs.

To reduce the chances of developing the cancer, the CDC recommends minimizing exposure to the sun between 10 am and 3 pm, wearing a hat to protect the face and clothing to protect the shoulders and back from sunburn.

Multiple sclerosis: Scientists reported Thursday they have zeroed in on immune cells that appear responsible for the nerve damage of multiple sclerosis, possibly leading to better treatments for the debilitating disease.

About 250,000 people in the United States, mostly between ages 20 and 40, suffer from multiple sclerosis or MS. An unpredictable, chronic disease, MS destroys the protective sheathing around nerve cells and hinders the ability of the brain and spinal cord to control movement, speech and vision.

The exact cause of MS is not known. Recent evidence has suggested that in MS patients, one kind of immune system cell called T-cells goes awry and attacks the protective sheathing.

Violent crime: Violent crime in Italy is no worse than in many other European nations, Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti said on Friday to defend his government's record on the mafia against an opposition challenge.

Andreotti told the chamber of deputies (lower house) that Italy could not be complacent about organised crime but said the government had stepped up the fight against the mafia in recent years and given wider powers to investigators. (Reuter)

Atom power plant: Norway said on Wednesday it was concerned by reports of inadequate safety at an ageing, Soviet-built nuclear power plant in East Germany and urged both East and West Germany to clamp down on any shortcomings.

The government is concerned over reports of lack of safety at the nuclear power plant at Greifswald and requests that necessary measures be found immediately, the Foreign Ministry said. (Reuter)

Cardinal dies: The Soviet Union's first resident Cardinal Julijans Vaivods, has died at his home in Riga, Latvia, Vatican radio said Friday. He was 94.

Pope John Paul II, who elevated Vaivods to Cardinal's Bank in 1983, sent a telegram of sympathy Friday to auxiliary Bishop Janis Cakuls of Riga.

Vatican Radio's Latvian-language service said Vaivods died Thursday afternoon. It said he had been ill since breaking a shoulder 10 days earlier in a fall. The Cardinal then developed pneumonia and finally, heart failure, the radio service said. (AP)

Libel suit: A Lutheran bishop was convicted of libel after he called a fellow clergyman "disloyal" for writing anti-immigration letters to Norwegian newspapers.

The Bodø City court, in a 2-1 decision, ordered Bishop Fredrik Grønningseter to pay his subordinate, Pastor Olaf B. Dal, 12,000 kroner (\$1,492) in compensation.

Grønningseter said he will appeal the verdict which was reached Wednesday and published Friday. Dal wrote to newspapers in 1987 and 1988 opposing mass immigration to Norway. (AP)

Answers queries

Mrs Ng (left) mother of Ng Yiu-Kwok, one of eight

Hong Kong people due to die on the gallows in

Malaysia on drug-smuggling charges, answers

questions at a press conference in Hong Kong

May 25. (Reuter wirephoto)



Monaco's first car

The tiny principality of Monaco, long known for auto races such as the Monte Carlo rally and the Monaco Grand Prix, unveiled its own automobile, Friday.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Automobile Club of Monaco, the sponsor of the

racers, the principality will produce the "Centenario," designed by Fulvio Maria Ballabio and Ismael Flocco.

With a list price of 2.5 million francs (\$439,000), the sleek car is not for the average buyer.

The carbonium body will be made in the principality's industrial section of Fontvieille but the motor — a V12 Lamborghini — will be manufactured in Turin, Italy.

About 15 craftsmen will produce one a month. The first will come available in 1991.

Armenians ask UN: More than 1,000 refugees invaded the grounds of the United Nations office in the Armenian capital, Yerevan, on Saturday, demanding protection and food.

The refugees, mostly women and children, said they had fled their homes because of harassment at night by armed men. Their leader had escaped earlier for fear of being linked with rebels who have taken over a third of the country. (Reuter)

Penguins carcasses found: The carcasses of endangered penguins, washed up packaged in a plastic bag, were found in a flooded hold of a Japanese trawler that ran aground, environmental officials said Friday in Cape Town, South Africa.

The fishing trawler Hung Tan aground on the rocky southwestern coast of Africa early Tuesday. Fifteen crew members were rescued by helicopter, but another who had left in a lifeboat was found dead on the beach later that day. (AP)

Ethiopians ask UN: More than 1,000 refugees invaded the grounds of the United Nations office in the Armenian capital, Yerevan, on Saturday, demanding protection and food.

The refugees, mostly women and children, said they had fled their homes because of harassment at night by armed men. Their leader had escaped earlier for fear of being linked with rebels who have taken over a third of the country. (Reuter)

Contraband break off talks: Nicaraguan rebels broke off disarmament talks Friday, attacking the Sandinista-dominated town of Rivas.

Defence Ministry spokesman Carlos Lara called the change "totally" false.

The conservative government of Violetta Barrios de Chamorro, which succeeded the leftist Sandinistas in charge of the military, promised to look into the report. (AP)

Aid not a panacea: Endara, Panamanian President Guillermo Endara thanked President George Bush Friday for US Congress approval of \$420 million aid package for Panama but said the money does not guarantee his country's economic recovery.

"It is not a panacea that by magic will liberate us from all our problems" nor is it a guarantee of economic recovery, Endara said at a press conference. "We are going to achieve the recovery ourselves, with our work, with our combat force."

Bush told Endara by telephone Friday morning that the aid had been approved after months of debate in the US House and Senate. The bill was approved five months after invading US forces ousted dictator Manuel Noriega and installed Endara. (UPI)

US denies allegations: The US government on Friday denied allegations by former political prisoners in Cuba that Washington was refusing them US entry visas to force them to stay behind and overthrow President Fidel Castro's communist rule.

"It is not the policy of the US government to encourage any individual or group in Cuba to overthrow the government violently or otherwise," the US interests section in Havana said in a statement.

The mission was responding to accusations by three former political prisoners who told foreign reporters in Havana that they and more than 1,000 like them were being denied US entry visas even though Cuban authorities had granted them permission to leave. (Reuter)

No US advisers: Calderon, Panama's vice-president said Friday there are no US advisers in his country to help the government and fewer US troops remain than before the United States invaded last December.

Vice-President Ricardo Arias Calderon, in Caracas for a one-day meeting with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, told reporters here that the United States had neither political nor military advisers in Panama.

"There are fewer troops now than before the North American military invasion," he added. (AP)

Fire in Barbados: A huge fire, possibly started by a welder's torch, destroyed eight downtown buildings and caused millions of dollars in damage on Friday in Bridgetown, Barbados before being brought under control.

Several bystanders were treated for smoke inhalation, but no other injuries were reported, fire officials said.

The fire broke out Thursday afternoon in the Barbados Supermarket, and eventually spread to seven other buildings in the heart of Bridgetown's commercial district. (AP)

Angola confident: Angolan Foreign Minister Pedro de Castro Van Duncan expressed optimism that a round of peace talks between the Marxist government and Unita rebels in the next weeks would produce agreements leading to a truce in their 15-year civil war, Angola's state news agency Angop reported Friday.

"Without doubt, those contacts will allow both sides to reconcile their points of view," Angop quoted Van Duncan as saying, adding the next round of talks would begin late May or early June. (AP)

Belgium freezes Zaire ties: Belgium froze its economic relations with Zaire on Friday to protest the May 12 killing of students on the campus of the University of Lubumbashi by Zairean soldiers.

Citing its concern over human rights violations,

Angola's state news agency Angop reported Friday.

Answers queries

Mrs Ng (left) mother of Ng Yiu-Kwok, one of eight Hong Kong people due to die on the gallows in Malaysia on drug-smuggling charges, answers questions at a press conference in Hong Kong May 25. (Reuter wirephoto)

Africa

Angola confident: Angolan Foreign Minister Pedro de

BUSINESS & FINANCE

The week in business

American trade deficit with Japan decreases

NEW YORK, May 26. (UPI): There was good and bad news on the economic front this week.

The government reported inflation reached a nine-year high, the economy grew at a sluggish 1.3 per cent rate in the first quarter and the thrift crisis worsened.

Nevertheless, the trade deficit declined to its lower level in six

years and a survey of economists concluded there would be no recession at least through 1991.

The Commerce Department said Thursday the nation's economy grew at an annual rate of 1.3 per cent, or \$13.9 billion, during the first quarter and inflation topped a nine-year high at 6.7 per cent.

The gross national product

fixed-weight price index, a measure of inflation, reached 6.7 per cent during the first quarter, the highest reading since 7.7 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1981.

About half of the first-quarter increase in inflation was attributed to higher food and energy prices in January after December's unusually cold

weather — more of a slip than a trend.

The department reported Wednesday that declining orders for motor vehicles and aircraft pushed new orders for durable goods down 4.1 per cent, or \$5.3 billion, in April.

The decline — more than twice what several economists had expected — followed increases of

6.5 per cent in March and 2.4 per cent in February. In January, durable goods orders slipped 10.5 per cent.

In addition, stubbornly high mortgage rates pushed sales of existing homes down 2.1 per cent, annual thrill's board in 1985.

Protecting the thrift's depositors from losses is expected to cost taxpayers more than

American personal income up

WASHINGTON, May 26. (UPI): Personal income edged up 0.3 per cent in April, the lowest rate in seven months and only half of the 0.6 per cent increase in consumer spending, the government said yesterday.

The result was a drop in Americans' savings rate — savings as a per cent of disposable income — from 5.8 per cent in March to 5.5 per cent in April. The rate had been 5.5 per cent in February, up from 5.3 per cent in January.

The Commerce Department reported that incomes totaled a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$4.69 trillion following 8 per cent gains during the three previous months.

It was the lowest rate since it dropped to 0.2 per cent last September.

Consumer spending totaled a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$3.68 trillion after 0.5 per cent increases in both February and March. It was the largest gain since it jumped 1.2 per cent in January.

Consumer spending is considered a barometer of economic health since it accounts for about two-thirds of the nation's economic activity.

"The April and March increases in personal income were affected by subsidy payments to farm proprietors," the department said. "The payments lowered the April change after raising the March change."

Excluding the subsidy payments, personal incomes rose 0.1 per cent in both months.

The report said Americans' income after taxes slowed to a 0.2 per cent increase from a 0.6 per cent gain in March and a 0.7 per cent jump in February. It had risen 0.9 per cent in both December and January.

The key component of the income category — wages and salaries — rose \$19.1 billion at an annual rate after a \$15.4 billion gain in March.

On the spending side, the increase in personal consumption, which includes everything except interest payments on debt, totaled \$21.9 billion, up from 19.4 billion in March.

Purchases of durable goods — products expected to last at least three years — rebounded \$3.8 billion from a \$3.2 billion drop in March. Purchases of non-durable goods also bounced back, gaining \$1.3 billion after falling 400 million in the previous month.

KLM reports profit slump

AMSTERDAM, May 26. (Reuter): KLM Royal Dutch Airlines said yesterday that its net profit fell 9.1 per cent to \$40 million guilders (\$180 million) last year, chiefly because of higher fuel and financing costs and deprecations.

KLM only gave key preliminary figures for the 12 months to the end of March, but reports for previous quarters show at least 40 per cent of the year's net profit came from an "extraordinary income" against no such gain in 1988/89.

Without this one-off gain, mainly from selling a courier service to Australia's TNT Ltd, net profit would have fallen 45 per cent, despite an eight per cent rise in revenue to 6.5 billion guilders (\$3.4 billion).

KLM blamed sharply higher fuel costs and depreciation for a 20 per cent fall in operating profit before financial costs and taxes to \$10 million guilders (\$165 million).

It added that financial costs had also risen, but gave no details.

Reel Gooskens, an analyst with brokers Van Meer James Capel, estimated that KLM's financing costs more than doubled to about 200 million guilders (\$106 million) as high interest rates boosted the cost of modernising and expanding its fleet.

Kuwait trade volume surges

Market turns mixed

THE Al Shall Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 39.36 points with a decrease of 0.07 point — 0.18 per cent — from last week's average.

The Al Shall Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 53.43 points with an increase of 0.72 point — 1.37 per cent — for the same period, according to Al Shall weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 18.85 million shares at a daily average of 3.77 million shares with an increase of 44 per cent over previous week's daily average of 3.63 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 1.720 million shares at a daily average of 0.244 million shares with a decrease of 81 per cent from last week's daily average of 1.804 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD. 8.11 million at a daily average of KD. 1.62 million, an increase of 53 per cent over last week's daily average of KD. 1.06 million.

The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD. 0.059 million at a daily average of KD. 0.012 million, a decrease of 85 per cent from last week's average of KD. 0.081 million.

For the Kuwaiti Shares market, the Banking sector came first at 48 per cent of total trading against 42 per cent last week. The National Bank of Kuwait had the lead at 34 per cent followed by The Gulf Bank at 30 per cent and Kuwait Finance House at 4 per cent.

The Investment Sector came second at 32 per cent in which Coast Investment & Development Company had the lead at 44 per cent, followed by Commercial Facilities Company at 34 per cent and Kuwait Investment Projects Company at 11 per cent. The Real Estate Sector came third at 10 per cent in which Pearl of Kuwait Real Estate Company had the lead at 73 per cent, followed by United Realty Company at 18 per cent, and Kuwait Real Estate Company at 9 per cent.

As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Sharjah Cement & Industrial Development Company had the lead at 48 per cent, followed by Arabian General Investment Company (SHUA'A) at 29 per cent and Umm-Al Quwain Cement Industries Company at 23 per cent.

The market gave signs of mixed activity inclined to the active side in the Kuwaiti shares market which is considered more important than the other markets while indices of the non-Kuwaiti market fell considerably.

Trading activity was concentrated in the shares of the Banking Sector and more precisely in the shares of the National Bank of Kuwait which increased the value of trading in the Kuwaiti shares market.

The market has been going through a period of sluggishness which started before the beginning of the present year with few short intervals of activity occurring in one of the markets which later resumes its previous weak performance. We believe that all companies that planned on distributing dividends for 1989 have declared their distributions.

This year's distributions reflect better results than those of the past three years except 1987 distributions which were less inclined to stock distributions.

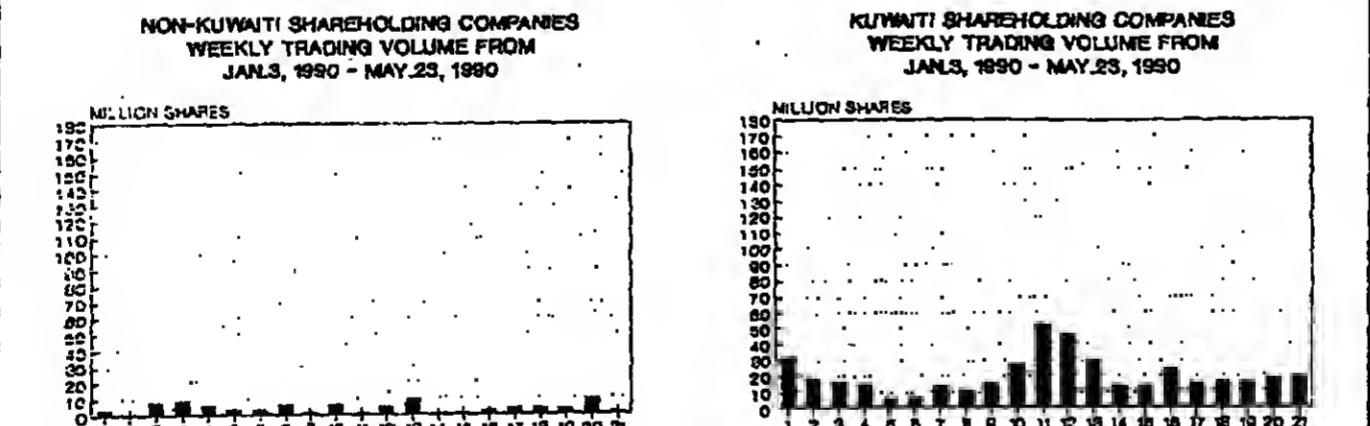
Kuwait shareholding companies Index

Wed. 23/05/90 16/05/90 Change points

Banking Sector	130.52	129.30	1.32
The National Bk	29.88	30.36	-0.47
The Gulf Bk	23.51	23.97	-0.46
Al Com Co.	30.19	31.25	-1.06
Al Int Bk	30.12	29.62	0.50
Bk of Kt & ME	28.43	28.89	-0.46
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	26.22	26.44	-0.22
Burgan Bk	81.72	81.72	0.00
Kuwait Finance House	40.30	40.33	-0.03
Sector Index			
Inv. Sector	10.65	9.18	1.47
Kuwait Inv. Co.	8.59	8.59	0.00
Kt. Inv. Co.	20.85	20.85	0.00
IFCA	160.33	163.35	-3.03
Com. Facilities	53.92	54.90	-0.98
National Inv.	83.15	86.52	-3.37
Kt. Inv. Proj.	84.71	81.18	3.53
Coast Inv. & Dev.	32.02	31.78	0.22
Sector Index			
Inv. Real Est.	32.29	34.68	-2.39
Kt. Inv. Co.	25.38	25.38	0.00
Gulf Inv. Co.	53.38	53.38	0.00
Al Ahsa Inv. Co.	47.25	47.25	0.00
Wartsa Inv. Co.	34.88	35.84	-1.25
Real Est. Sector			
Kt. Real Est.	10.58	10.20	0.38
Utd. Realty	4.91	4.98	-0.06
Nat. Real Est.	39.42	39.42	0.00
Pearl of Kt.	67.46	67.46	0.00
Sector Index			
Inv. Sector	14.91	14.84	0.07
Kt. Cmtr. Co.	10.63	10.63	0.00
Ref. Ind.	81.26	81.26	0.00
Gulf Cables	112.00	113.13	-1.13
Kt. Pharm.	53.33	53.33	0.00
Sector Index			
Services Sector	28.55	28.58	-0.13
Kt. Cmtr. Co.	131.76	131.76	0.00
Kt. Cmtr. Co.	7.80	7.32	0.48
Kt. Cinema Co.	51.52	52.53	-1.01
Pub. Whsng Co.	35.45	35.45	0.00
Kt. Comm. M.C.	35.00	35.00	0.00
M. Tels. Syst.	28.88	28.88	0.00
Sector Index			
Food Sector	25.63	25.63	0.00
L. Trad. & Transp.	11.95	10.62	0.42
Utd. Fisheries	11.01	11.01	0.00
Kt. Utd. Poultry	68.97	68.97	0.00
Kt. Food Co.	27.33	37.19	0.15
Sector Index			
Overall Index	23/05/90	16/04/90	Change points
Wed.	263.16	236.84	26.32
Wed.	84.14	84.14	0.00
Wed.	84.47	84.47	0.00
Wed.	44.70	44.70	0.00
Wed.	16.12	15.38	0.75
Wed.	19.01	18.76	0.25
Wed.	13.13	13.13	0.00
Wed.	52.43	52.72	0.72

—Base period 31/12/1982.

—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.



Economic concerns play as big role as environmental policy

Alternative fuel interests use PAC muscle to gain favours

WASHINGTON, May 26. (UPI): US companies that stand to benefit substantially from alternative fuel requirements in clean air legislation pending in Congress have funnelled millions of dollars in campaign money to key lawmakers, a United Press International survey indicates.

A UPI review of Political Action Committee donations shows that the companies, which include methanol producers and ethanol interests, have delivered nearly \$6 million in incumbents, most of which was received over the past three years. Many of the top recipients pushed through Congress favorable clean fuel provisions.

Not surprisingly, lawmakers cast their votes in the clean air bill, like other legislation, in favour of home-state interests, with farm state Congressmen supporting ethanol fuels and southwestern Congressmen favouring oil and natural gas.

Agribusiness companies funnelled \$2.5 million in PAC money to farm state lawmakers who pushed favourable ethanol requirements in the bill. They were aided by more than \$400,000 in PAC donations from ethanol companies, like the Archer Daniels Midland Co. of Decatur, Illinois.

The leading ethanol PAC recipients include Sens. Alan Dixon, Democrat of Illinois, who received \$28,000 since 1983, and Robert Dole, Republican of Kansas, who received \$16,000 from the PACs.

Dole, the Senate Republican leader, also received \$40,300 from agribusiness companies with a vested interest in ethanol production.

Dole and Sen. Thomas Daschle, Democrat of South Dakota, who received \$20,000 from ethanol agricultural interests, pushed through the Senate a pro-ethanol amendment that would reduce ozone emissions by increasing the amount of oxygen in gasoline sold in nine heavily polluted cities. Experts say the oxygen levels could only be met by adding ethanol to gasoline, a windfall for corn producers.

Dole, a longtime friend of Andreas, several years ago helped to get the ethanol industry \$500 million in annual federal tax breaks.

Other top ethanol PAC recipients in the Senate included Sens. Rudy Boschwitz, Republican of Minnesota, who received \$13,500, Paul Simon, Democrat of Illinois, who collected \$13,300 and Charles Grassley, Republican of Iowa, who received \$12,700 since 1983.

In the House, the top recipient was Robert Michel, Republican of Illinois, the House Republican leader, who received \$11,600 since 1983, followed by Rep. Brian Dorgan, Democrat of North Dakota, who netted \$11,000, and Rep. William Alexander, Democrat of Arkansas, who collected \$10,750, the study found.

Trade gap smallest in six years

WASHINGTON, May 26. (UPI): The US foreign trade deficit shrank to \$26.4 billion in the first quarter, the smallest quarterly imbalance in more than six years, the government reported yesterday.

The Commerce Department said the 8.2 per cent improvement in the trade balance in the January-March period was a result of record-high export sales that offset the highest volume of oil imports in more than 12 years.

NBK study

American economy remains sluggish

ECONOMIC data released this week continues to support our view that the US economy remains sluggish with a large fall experienced in new orders for manufactured durable goods as well as an unexpected downward revision in the GNP growth rate for the first quarter of this year, according to NBK weekly market review.

The dollar strengthened against the EMS currencies but lost ground to the yen and ended the week at DM1.68 and yen 149.6.

As anticipated the dollar has started to adopt a firmer tone and is expected to continue to benefit from its safe-haven status in view of the problems currently being experienced in Europe and the Soviet Union.

It is still considered unlikely that any change will be made to monetary policy in the near future although longer term it is anticipated that the Federal Reserve will ultimately ease as the slowdown in the US economy increases.

A number of economic indicators are due out next week including leading indicator, unemployment and factory order which will provide further evidence to the extent of moderating activity.

Trading ranges for the coming week are forecast to be as follows: DM 1.66—1.70 and yen 147.5—151.5.

Strong domestic demand and higher imports contributed to a larger than expected trade deficit in April which curtailed the recent stock and bond market rallies.

In addition the rapid increase in the money supply together with the considerable rise in manufacturing output suggests that the UK economy remains adequately robust in spite of the government's high interest rate policy.

Sterling ended the week at £/S 1.69 and £/DM 2.84.

The rise in unit wage costs in the first three months of this year underlines the continuing increase in inflationary pressures and this trend is set to continue for the time being as wage settlements of approximately 10 per cent are still being agreed. With the high interest rate levels proving unsuccessful in slowing down the economy a reduction in rates is highly unlikely and an increase should still not be ruled out.

However, the likelihood of early entry into the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System is expected to continue to support sterling for the time being.

With very little new economic data due out next week trading ranges are forecast to be as follows: DM 2.82 and £/S 1.67—1.72.

For most of the week the deutschemark has continued to be undermined by uncertainty surrounding the terms of economic union together with inflationary fears. However, recent speculation that the Bundesbank was considering intervention caused the German unit to recover slightly. The German central bank wishes to maintain a tight monetary policy in order to keep a firm exchange rate.

IMF renews aid to Argentina

WASHINGTON, May 26. (AP): The International Monetary Fund will let Argentina draw \$240 million of its \$1.7-billion loan that the fund suspended last February, an IMF spokesman said yesterday.

The fund was suspended when President Carlos Menem's government failed to meet agreed on conditions.

The spokesman, who gave the information on condition he not be named, said Argentina's conditions for this year have been revised. He would not disclose them. He added that the drawing had been permitted because of the forceful policies of the government.

He said Argentina could use part of the \$240 million to buy back some of its \$60-billion debt at a discount. It owes about \$40 billion to banks. Last week its debt to banks could be bought on the New York market for 14 cents on the dollar.

The fund's loan can also be used to support other arrangements that Argentina may make with the banks that hold the debt, to reduce the \$4-billion in payments due them every year. One official said the amount available for these purposes would be more than 25 per cent of the \$240-million drawing.

Argentina has fallen behind on its payments and owes another \$6 billion in arrears.

Ryzhkov promised that key

BAHRAIN, May 26. (Agencies): Arab Banking Corporation BSC (ABC) launched a public offering of 25 million shares in Bahrain today, bankers said.

The Bahrain-based ABC, the Arab world's largest bank, has set a \$10 nominal price per share and a \$4 premium, payable in full.

An ABC statement set the minimum purchase of shares at 50.

The share issue will boost the bank's paid-in capital to \$1 billion from \$750 million. Applications have been made to list shares on the Kuwait and Paris stock exchanges.

Shareholders amended the nominal value of ABC's shares to \$10 from \$100 at an extraordinary meeting in December 1989, increasing the number of issued shares to 75 million from 7.5 million.

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Iran, Malaysia to expand trade

Protocol signed

NICOSIA, May 26. (AP): Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar today signed a protocol boosting trade between the two Muslim countries to \$200 million a year, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

Tehran Radio, like the official agency monitored in Nicosia, said Malaysia agreed to buy 10,000—20,000 barrels of Iranian crude oil a day for one year.

Omar ended a three-day visit during which he attended the second meeting of the Iran-Malaysia joint economic commission.

He described his visit as "successful" before he was seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad airport by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's joint economic commission.

Tehran Radio reported that "important agreements were reached for removing hurdles in improving ties and increasing trade between the two countries."

The radio said the agreements call for the "creation of necessary facilities to expand trade in pharmaceuticals, palm oil, electrical goods, rubber and other non-oil products."

Iran, which currently buys some \$20 million worth of goods a year from Malaysia — mainly timber, tin, rubber and palm oil — has long sought

The statement said the reasons for the increase were to broaden the shareholder base, to diversify and widen sources of funds and to use part of the proceeds of the share issue in capitalising a subsidiary banking operation in Europe.

ABC has branches in London, Paris and Milan. It plans to incorporate them under one umbrella to gain a foothold in Europe after the unification of markets in 1992.

Five million shares were earmarked for firms and investors outside the region.

The shares are being offered on the Bahrain Stock Exchange and at three local commercial banks — National Bank of Bahrain, Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait and Al Ahli Commercial Bank.

The offer makes ABC, previously

owned by Kuwait's Finance Ministry, the Libyan Treasury and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, the first Gulf-based firm to offer its shares to investors on the open market.

ABC, with total assets of \$21.73 billion at the end of 1989, transferred its entire net 1989 profit of \$132 million to LDC provisions, which are now equivalent to 43 per cent of exposure.

The group's capital ratio under the new international rules is 11.8 per cent, well above the agreed minimum of eight per cent.

ABC is active in obtaining and placing interbank deposits and in foreign exchange dealing (both on behalf of customers and for its own account) and is an active participant in syndicated credit markets and in underwriting securities. ABC provides a full range of trade and project finance services including short and medium term loans, letters of credit and contract

profits of \$35 million, which was down sharply from \$142 million the year before owing to non-payment of interest by less developed countries (LDCs). The bank applied all this profit to LDC provisions, which are now

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guarantees.

ABC also offers its customers corporate finance, discretionary funds management and financial advisory services.

ABC conducts its activities through branches in Bahrain, New York, London, Paris, Singapore, Grand Cayman and Milan and through several subsidiaries, including the listed Spanish bank, Banco Atlantico S.A. (56 per cent owned by ABC). Banco Atlantico accounted for 37 per cent of ABC's consolidated total assets as at 31st December 1989.

For the 1990s ABC sees major opportunities in three regions — the Arab world, Europe and the Pacific rim — and in trade and investment flows between the regions. ABC started the process of creating the network to pur-

sue business in these regions shortly after it was established and ABC will allocate substantial further resources to strengthen this network over the next several years.

In the Arab world, ABC already has offices in Bahrain, Tripoli and Tunis and a joint venture subsidiary in Jordan.

In Europe in preparation for 1992 ABC is restructuring its presence and has announced its intention to establish a European banking subsidiary to assume and integrate the activities of its existing branch operations and certain of its UK-based subsidiaries.

In the Pacific rim, ABC plans to open new offices and explore new investment opportunities in addition to ABC group presences in Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and Japan.

Fed to adopt a stimulative credit policy

Opposite roads for stocks, real estate

NEW YORK, May 26. (Agencies): The worlds of two of the nation's most popular investments — stocks and real estate — are about as far apart as they can get right now.

The stock market has been forging ahead, reaching a succession of record highs over the past two weeks.

The real estate and housing markets, on the other hand, are suffering a protracted period of weakness that extends into many parts of the country.

Analysts are quick to point out that this divergence is by no means unique. In the 1970s, for example, real estate prices surged ahead on the crest of a wave of inflation, while the stock market languished for much of the time.

"A drop in construction and real estate activity cuts a wide swath," said Michael Sherman, investment strategist at Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc.

"It hits almost every owner of real estate, almost every vendor in the construction industry, and nearly every lender in the financial markets. The only beneficiaries are those few people who have held back before buying or building."

debate on Wall Street.

One theory holds that slumping real estate prices and housing starts reflect a squeeze on credit that somehow has failed to make an impression yet on investors in the stock market, but that sooner or later will prove impossible to ignore.

On the opposite side of the argument, optimists say the woes of real estate and construction may well prompt the Federal Reserve eventually to adopt a stimulative credit policy, stoking the stock and bond markets with fuel for further gains.

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In short, a major downturn in this area would be broadly deflationary and the Fed would know that.

"As a consequence, if the current weakness we see emerging in construction continues and accelerates, monetary policy will have to change. As it does, it will enhance the outlook for financial assets."

Talk of that sort helped stock prices extend their spring rally in the past week. Even with a setback yesterday, the Dow Jones average of 30 industrials rose 1.01 to 2,820.92, recording its fourth consecutive weekly gain.

The New York Stock Exchange Composite index edged up 0.16 to 193.71; the Nasdaq Composite index for the over-the-counter market rose 5.29 to 453.60 and the American Stock Exchange Market Value index was up 3.52 at 359.84.

Volume on the Big Board averaged 163.47 million shares a day, against 175.65 million the week before.

In the eyes of James Grant, a newsletter publisher and vocal bear on the financial outlook, stocks look vulnerable to some of the same problems that have hurt real estate.

"The stock market is a creature of credit," he writes in the issue of Grant's Interest Rate Observer published yesterday.

"It cares about the treasury market. It depends even more on the cost and availability of business credit."

"The expansion of credit tends to be bullish, and the contraction of credit tends to be bearish. In the 1980s, reckless lenders expanded credit. In the 1990s, timid lenders will shrink it."

"It is only 1990, but the contraction is under way. It therefore stands to reason that stock prices are headed lower."

A big sell-off in high-flying technology stocks pounded Wall Street on Friday, extending losses to a second session following record-highs reached earlier in the week.

Lauber union leaders said Friday the walkout will be led by the Consolidated Workers Central, Brazil's largest umbrella organisation that represents 1,000 unions, and separate unions representing workers in the petroleum industry, construction, public administration, ports, urban services, and banks.

One large labour group, however, is not joining the walkout.

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Pakistani engineers' get-together

THE Overseas Pakistani Engineers Forum (Opefor) recently held their annual get-together at the SAS Hotel.

Sana Rahim recited passages from the Holy Quran followed by a religious song by Shaheen Abbas. Opefor President Badar A. Khan spoke about the association; general secretary Mohammad Naseem Faruqui explained their aims and objectives.

Faruqui also introduced the central executive committee: Khursheed Muzaffar (patron); Agha Manzoor Ali; Syed Hamid Sharifuddin; Naseem Haider (vice-president); Wahid Rizvi (treasurer); Abdur Rahim Siddiqui/Hameedullah Khan (secretaries); and Tauseef Ahmed, Ather Masood and Sohail Tahir (joint secretaries).

Pakistani ambassador to Kuwait Zahid Saeed was the chief guest. Also present were Pakistani Consul Manzar Shafiq, Iqbal Hussain and Rana Afzal.

Seema Faruqui was the MC. Songs, ghazals and humour skits were presented by Tariq Hamid, Moazzam, Anwar Irfan, Khalid Mahmood, Moin Khan, Sujad Haider and Munir Khan.

Games for children were conducted by Seema Rahim and Omer Faruqui.



Ambassador Zahid Saeed on the podium.

Seema Faruqui.

Khursheed Muzaffar addressing guests.



PPC committee re-structured

The Pakistan Peoples Club recently re-structured their Nagra and Hawalli sub-committees. The nominated office bearers are: Muhammad Ismail Chohan (president); Altaf Nasar Chohan (vice-president); Sohail Yawar Lokesher (general secretary). The committee members are Ali Imran; Mohammad Arif, Irfan Muhammad, Abdul Hafeem, Ali Akbar Wasti; Quasir Zaman and Muhammad Afzal. Above: PPC President M. Afzal Noor pictured with some of the central committee members at a recent meeting.



Oil Minister Sheikh Ali K.A. Al Sabah was recently welcomed at the Kuwait International Hotel by general manager Hermann Simon (above). Also pictured is PR Manager Adnan Saeed.



The management of Kuwait Sheraton Hotel recently held a party to celebrate an award. The hotel won the Chairman's Club Priza for the Sheraton Guest Satisfaction System in the Middle East. Chairman's Club Priza was presented by Wessel (left) to the hotel staff. He also outlined the hotel's future plans and the importance of keeping up standards. Wessel also presented the 1989 President's Award to Awad Abdel Hafez, chief concierge. This award is given annually to any deserving staff member. Above: Wessel (left) pictured with Awad and other hotel staff.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.30 Holy Quran
9.40 Good Morning
9.50 Kaola: cartoons
10.10 News Summary
10.15 World News via
Satellite (repeat)
10.30 Wajhul Nazar: Arabic
serial; part 3
11.25 Cultural Film
12.00 Candid Camera:
Arabic version
12.30 News summary
12.35 Closedown

Evening

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News via
Satellite
4.30 Sally: cartoon serial
5.00 Cartoons
6.00 Ayyam Al Ramad: Arabic serial; ep. 11
7.00 Songs
7.15 Agricultural Magazine: focus on local farming
7.50 Diwaniyat Shura Al
Nabi: Nabi poetry
gathering
8.30 Good Evening:
magazine show
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Al Meera: Arabic
serial, featuring
Magdi Wahba,
Abmad Kamis,
Ghazwa Labib.
12.00 World News via
Satellite
12.05 News in Brief
12.20 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Beachcombers:
"Unlikely Allies 2".
Nicke discovers a
smugglers gang and
asks Relic to help. Will
the offenders be
brought to justice?

7.00 In the Shadow of Fujisan: Turtles thrive on
Japanese territory.
Documentary.
8.00 News in English

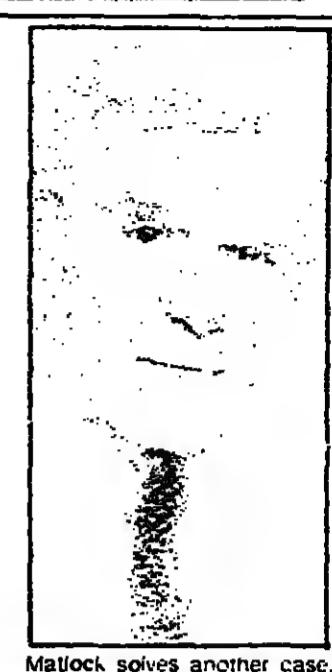
8.40 Matlock: "The Reunion". A lawyer's
murder puts Matlock on
the trail of the killers.

9.30 Body Matters:
"Against All the
Odds". This episode
examines organ transplants
and why some
human bodies reject.

10.00 The Nuu House: Sally
borrows money to
help her mother and
finds the money has
been stolen. Comedy.

10.30 Best-Seller: "Champagne Charlie".
Charlie inherits a huge
fortune but his uncle
threatens to disinherit
him. Drama.

12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown



Azzah Labib stars in the Arabic serial Al Meera, on KTV 1

Please note that Kuwait Television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.18 am
Zahr	11.45
Asr	3.20 pm
Maghreb	6.40
Isha	8.10

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Hanafi Al Ubbah (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Huda
Ramzi, Farouk Fishawi

Al Salmiya
Al Rajassah Wal Siyasi
(Arabic)
Starring: Nabila Obaid,
Selab Qabil

Al Hamra
Hanafi Al Ubbah (Arabic)

Drive-In
Al Rajassah Wal Siyasi
(Arabic)

Al Firdous
Aakhi Baazi (Hindi)
Starring: Govinda,
Mandakini

Fahabeel Open Air
Mera Sahaag (Hindi)

Al Fahabeel
Heart Beeps

Al Jaha
Rafoo Chakkar (Hindi)

Granada
Sachchai ki Taaqai (Hindi)

Salabikhat
Rage

Al Jeeb
Kireedam (Malayalam)

Ahmed Drive-In
Mad Mission V

BBC highlights

BBC recreates pre-war world

Play of the Week: Who Wrote Horseback Hall?

IT is 1916 and a writer now serving in the First World War is recovering from malaria. He recreates the vanished pre-war world of weekend house parties as an anarchic detective story, contrasting the carefree time with the harsh reality of war. This play of the week by Michael Robson was directed by David Spenser and stars John Westbrook, Jill Balcon, Patrick Troughton and John Rye as the writer, Hector Monro.

May 27; 1430 hrs.

Concert Hall
This week BBC World Service brings you a concert of American music, featuring works by Ives, Cowell, Gershwin and Barber.

May 27; 1815 hrs.

The Chinese People Stand Up

Another chance to hear the acclaimed six-part history of the Chinese People's Republic made last year by the head of the BBC Chinese Service, Elizabeth Wright. The series marked the 40th anniversary of the people's republic which took place last June, the same month as the student protest in Peking was put down.

June 1; 1815 hrs. (repeat June 3; 1515)

Taking Issue

Drugs are the subject of this week's edition of the round-table discussion programme. Christopher Cook chairs the programme and challenges his guests to take a wider view, with all preconceptions strictly forbidden!

May 27/28 0530 hrs.; 10.30 hrs.

Frequencies: 17.01m; 1991m; 25.51m

The Dancing Stars

Gaelic music at its best, as those fine fiddlers Ron Gonella and Angus Cameron and the rest of the band entertain audiences in Scotland. The other musicians are George McIlwham on flute and piccolo, Rhona McKay, harp, clarsach and vocals, pianist Walter Blair and Graham Robb on double bass. (Sat 0130 rep 1115, 2115 GMT)

The Singing Stars

Malcolm Laycock spotlights the great solo singers of the post-war decade, and this month traces the careers of Perry Como, Rosemary Clooney, Bobby Darin and Frankie Laine through the songs they immortalised on record.

We learn how they were discovered, groomed and marketed to become the forerunners of the pop idols of today. (Fri 2115 rep Sat 0430, Tues 1345 GMT)



Gold draw

The third and last draw of the Indus Valley Basmati Rice was held on May 14 at SAS Hotel's "Al Khaimah". Mohammad Shah Adran, holder of ticket No. 033385, won half a kilo pure gold. The draw was held under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce representative Mohammad Abdulaziz Al Faraj. A kilo of gold was offered during the Indus Valley promotion, launched by Malek Bros. and Hindustan Lever. Picture shows officials supervising the draw.

WHAT'S ON

Arts

Boushahri Gallery
A MONTH-LONG exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists is now being held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salma Bldg, Salma Al Mubarak St. The works of such artists as Jaafar Isla, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diya, Dia Al Azzawi and Saleb Jameel are on show. Open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm; 4 to 7.30 pm; until month end.

Theatre

IAC One-Act Play Contest
May 30: Madhu and Friends present "Kithuve Nama"; Malayalam: Stage Index perform "Shanti Parvam", Malayalam.

May 31: Bengali Cultural Society's "Maarchi Songbaaz"; Bengali; IAC badminton team perform "Chanteeran and His Clan"; Malayalam. Natya Bharati present "Kafan" (Shroud); Hindi.

June 1: Award Nite and Entertainment Show, followed by dinner at 7 pm.

All performances at IAC. Funaitees; 7.30 pm. For details call 3904817. Entry passes for all performances, including Award Nite are available from IAC.

Kuwait Players
KUWAIT Players present "A Room Full of Foreigners", a

Social

LIL
May 28: Monday, 10 am to 12 noon; Ladies International League (LIL) hold Newcomers Meeting; coffee morning; Sheraton Hotel, mezzanine. Ladies of all nationalities welcome. For details call Ann — 531-6905.

Sport

Filcheck Chess Tournament
THE Filipino Chess Club, Kuwait, will hold the International Team Chess Tournament. Teams: four regulars, two stand-by. Group A: Boards 1/2; Group B: Boards 3/4.

Open to all Filipino chess enthusiasts. Entry forms from Kabayan Restaurant. Last date for entries: May 25. Tournament starts June 1 at Messilah Beach Hotel. For further details contact 2402405.

Competition

Approb Essay Competition
THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen holds an essay competition. Essays on "My Role in Building a Better Pakistan" can be submitted by Pakistani students. Open to juniors (12-14); seniors (15-18). Essays of between 1,000 and 1,500 words can be written in English and Urdu.

Send essays to Approb, P.O. Box 2351, Salmiya, 22024. Kuwait. Last date for entries: May 31. For details contact 2425315.

Hotels

At Al Salam
At Bendar Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight.

At the Plaza:

Al Dallah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu.

Lolouwah Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks.

Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

At the Holiday Inn

Al Mubarikah: open Around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays

— Middle Eastern cuisine.

Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.

Al Berdouneh: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

Music

Summer Rock Concert
June 4/5/6: High Spirits and Seventh Sky, rock concert; music from Police, Dire Straits, Bon Jovi, Guns 'n' Roses etc. For reservations call 5387998/2653395 after 5 pm.

Lecture

Higher education
MAY 26: 6 pm. Lecture and video show; "Access to your first degree" focus on how to get on a British degree programme. Open to Kuwaiti, Indian and Pakistani students and parents. At the British Council, Mansouriya, Reserve seats. Tel: 2520067/8/9 and ask for Kate Harries or Elizabeth Lockey.

At the Meridian

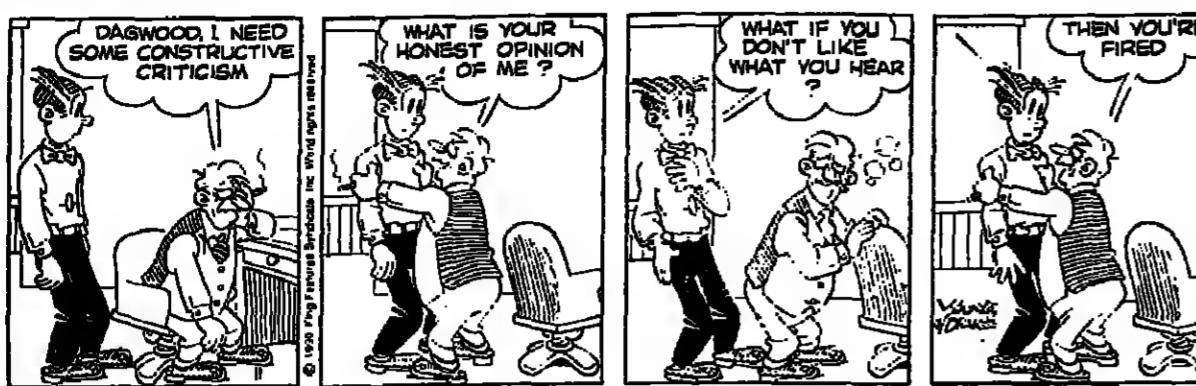
La Brasserie Restaurant
Wednesday: Indonesian dinner, cuisine prepared in front of you.

Thursday: Jazz Night — jazz music, seafood specialities.

Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day.

Versailles: Business lunch and dinner featuring fondue; grilled food.

THE CONSPIRE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HEART THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



MISTER CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



SWEET EBAILEY — By Mort Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



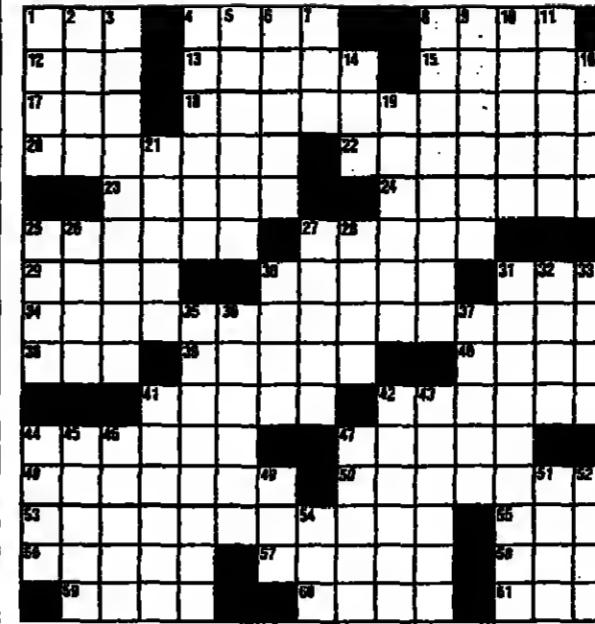
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Aspirant to col. 60 Regarding 27 Works of
4 Be outmatched 61 Saretoge, for one
8 Carbonated 28 Toppers
liquid. Sp. 30 Bundle of hay
12 Important time 31 Henry
13 Encircle Youngmen
15 Bindlestiff specialties
17 Choice shooter 32 — of Man
18 Part of New 33 Floral
York City's necklaces
theater 35 Beyond
scene 6 territorial
20 Balkan country waters
22 Mouseketeer 36 Fonteyn of
Funucello ballet fame
23 Unique persons 37 Tomato blight
25 Musical's big 41 Awf's cousin
andring 42 Otologist
27 Choir members 43 Island N of
29 Mideaft title 44 — au rum
30 Forerunner to 45 "...this is — not
case 31 Pay bribery 46 Conference city
money 32 — Verdes 1945
34 Sports strategy 47 Chicago's —
38 Part of GB 48 Tower
Estates, Calif. 49 — degree
40 Cold cuts outlet 51 Kick preceder
41 Actor Richard 52 Bristle
and kin 54 Acc's entry
42 White poplars
44 Sound from 55
a kennel 56
47 What Finns
speak 57
48 Elsa's
"biographer." 58
50 Gofers' chores
53 High-speed
mover in Japan
55 Palindromic
word
56 "...clever beings
who were —
with me"; Wido,
57 Kingdom
exchange?
58 Balderdash
59 Gates, of old

DOWN

1 "I — man who
wears..."
2 Soviet salt lake
3 Carrying on
verbal pressure
4 A Barrymore
5 "I don't want
to set the
world —"
6 Chesterfield
7 Tarzan's
creator: Initi.
8 Stalemate
9 Monastic
societies
10 Tended
11 Famous
Cremona neme
14 Part of a bikini
16 Maggie: Var.
19 Ball placement
before driving
21 "Cookery is
become —";
R. Burton
25 Fortune's
companion
26 "Oli"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

OMIT	GEAR	ASTA
BACH	BADGE	AWEQ
ISEE	ARIES	REWI
STRAWHAT'S	BOAST	TANGO
ALTER	ERROR	PANT
TOUR	SINE	KUR
HIRSHUTE	DESPITE	ORT
NIODE	URGE	NOE
SEL	IRONS	ELTON
HONEY	PLUS	ELTON
ORES	SHADE	VEAL
PACT	LIVIO	ELIE
INKY	OLEO	RELY

GOREN'S BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦J762 ♠AKQ63 ♦95 ♣65 Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

A.—With ruffing values in the minor suits, you should make every effort to find an eight-card fit in a major. Start by bidding two clubs—a request for partner to show a major. Raise any major bid to game; jump to three hearts if partner denies a major by rebidding two diamonds. Cue-bid only after you've located a trump fit.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦83 ♠Q65 ♦KQ63 ♣9872 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—You don't know partner's distribution—it could be 6-4 or 5-5 or 5-4. The one thing you can't do is bid three no trump with one suit unstopped, and don't raise partner's second suit with only three-card support. Make a waiting bid of three spades to see what he does next.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦A8 ♠KJ1098632 ♣A8 ♦71 The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—Since you haven't the faintest idea where this hand is going to be played, a jump shift now just conveys space unnecessarily. Start by responding one heart. You can jump-shift next round, if necessary.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦A8 ♠KJ1098632 ♣A8 ♦71 The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

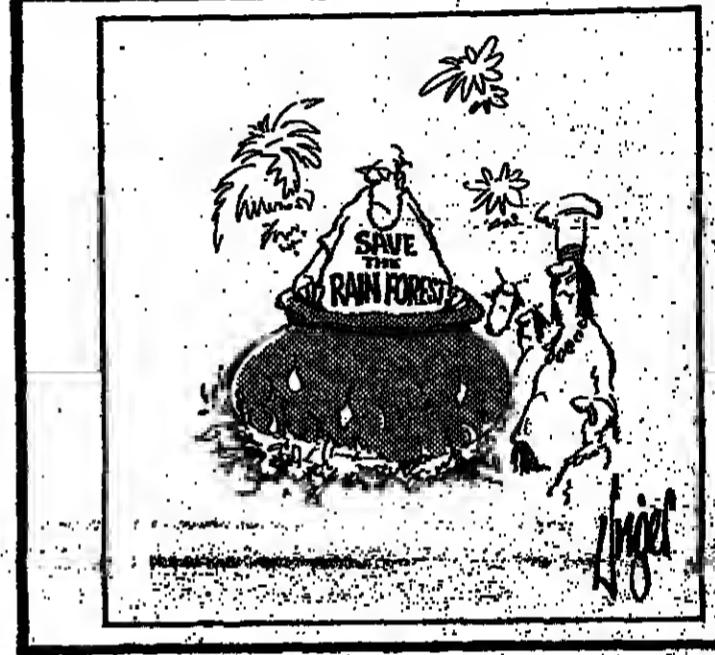
A.—This hand is different—you know where you want to play, but not how high. A strong distributional hand has improved because of the huge fit with partner. Convey the good news by cue-bidding three clubs.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

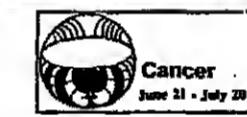
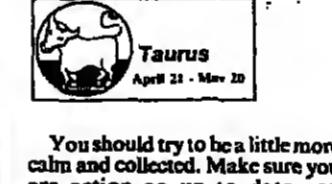
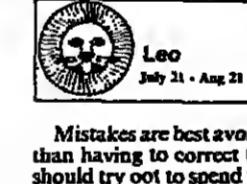
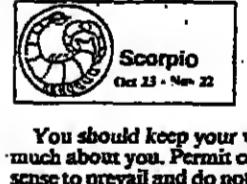
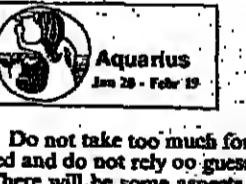
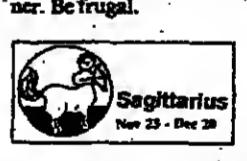
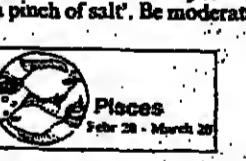
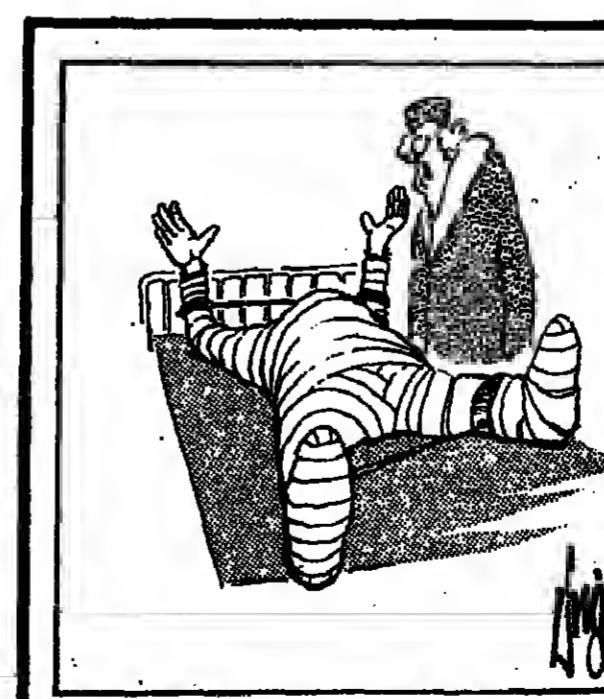
♦KJ643 ♠A8 ♦AJ9872 ♣Void The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—You have only one strain where you want to play the hand—hearts. Jump to four hearts to convey a one-suited hand of limited strength. With a really good hand, you would have jumped to three hearts.



YOUR STARS

Aries
March 21 - April 19Cancer
June 21 - July 20Libra
Sept 23 - Oct 22Capricorn
Dec 23 - Jan 20Taurus
April 21 - May 20Leo
July 23 - Aug 22Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 18Gemini
May 21 - June 20Virgo
Aug 23 - Sept 22Sagittarius
Nov 23 - Dec 22Pisces
Feb 20 - March 19

"The doctor says you'll still be able to play the piano."



"Do you want me to close the window?"

You should not do this, as it is not strictly practical just now. Do not let others tell you what to do but do not expect them to do what you would like them to do either. Have a good laugh at yourself. Be sure.

Do not rely on others to guess your meaning, make yourself clear. You will be able to overcome some momentary tension only if you keep calm. Make sure you get enough rest and sufficient exercise too. Be prudent.

You should try to be a little more calm and collected. Make sure you are acting up to date and accurate information. Do not become involved in what does not really concern you. Be candid.

Mistakes are best avoided rather than having to correct them. You should try not to spend too long in company. Do not care for. Avoid taking everything quite literally but avoid also being too cynical. Be more patient.

You should keep your wits very much about you. Permit common sense to prevail and do not do anything silly. You will be able to avail yourself of an opportunity to increase harmony with your partner. Be frugal.

There will be some complications and you should concentrate on sorting them out. Make sure you do not expose yourself to infection and take good care of your personal hygiene. Be fair.

You should not allow some small setback to disturb your inner peace of mind. And do persevere, you are on the right track. You will be able to take the initiative, but avoid being rash. Be generous.

Alaskan glaciers exploited

Ice harvests cool profits

ANCHORAGE, Alaska. (Reuters): Entrepreneurs have begun exploiting what may be Alaska's most abundant natural resources — ice.

Private businesses are collecting chunks of glacier ice to sell as curios to foreigners, especially the Japanese, and as the base for products like vodka and shampoo. There are also those hoping to market it in people concerned about the purity of their drinking water.

Despite protests by environmentalists, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources has granted 11 glacier ice-harvesting permits allowing the collection of up to 5,000 tonnes of ice a week in the waters of Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska.

However, the US National Park Service and environmental groups, concerned that the infant industry will grow uncontrollably, complain that the entrepreneurs are carving away the Alaskan wilderness for the sake of profit.

"To me, there's not an aspect of it that isn't wasteful," said Peter Fitzmaurice, chief ranger for Kenai Fjords National Park, one of the ideal sites for glacier ice harvesting.

"You can make ice cubes in your freezer. It's, to me, symbolic of what I see as a bad direction in our development," he said.

Many of the ice collection sites are off the shores of Kenai Fjords and Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks in southwestern Alaska.

Gary Prokosch, a water resources manager for the Natural Resources Department, said the permits contain restrictions to prevent harm to wildlife or to the state's natural beauty, which attracts increasing numbers of tourists every year.

Harvesting is prohibited in late May and June, when seals swim out of the mist-shrouded Fjord waters to give birth to their pups.

Prokosch said environmentalists' calls for sweeping regulation of the glacier ice business were unwarranted.

"It's a little early for an overall management plan for an industry that we don't even know is going any place," he said.

Until now, the industry had been small. Ice harvesters say no more than 2,000 tonnes a year have been collected commercially in Alaska, although exact amounts are disputed. A tonne is equivalent to a cube measuring about three metres (10 feet) on each side.

So far, most of the tense, blue-green glacier ice has been sold in Japan, according to the Alaska Centre for International Business.

The Japanese craze for it began accidentally with a marketing display in Tokyo in 1987 to promote bottled Alaskan water, said Mark Wilson, president of Wetco Inc., a company in Anchorage that sells some seven million dollars' worth of glacier ice and water products annually.

Wilson said his Japanese host was entranced by the cracking sound the samples of blue-tinted ice made as they melted.

"He referred to it as 'the whisper of the ages,'" Wilson said. "That phrase started a campaign for us in Japan."

Wetco began exporting to Japan, where chunks of glacier ice became luxury cubes clinking and popping in cocktail glasses.

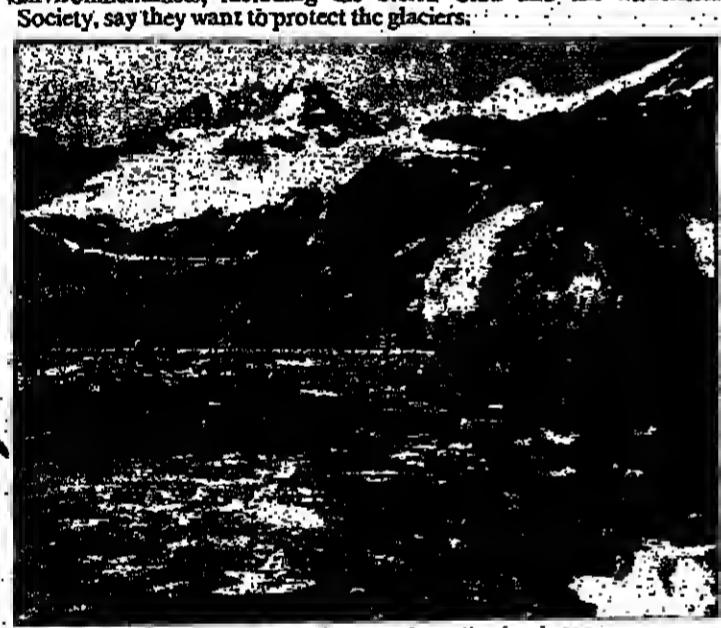
Wilson now concentrates on selling products based on glacier ice rather than the ice itself. Wetco sells its own brands of bottled glacier water and glacier-based vodka and supplies glacier water to a California firm that makes "glacial shampoo."

Ice harvesters say they are bringing economic development to a state seeking to break its dependence on oil.

One such entrepreneur is Timothy Dimond, who has sold about 1,250 tonnes of glacier ice in the past two years.

"Then good, clean water in this world is fast vanishing. A large percentage of all the fresh water in the world is in glaciers," Dimond said.

They, however, is precisely why National Park Service officials and environmentalists, including the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society, say they want to protect the glaciers.



Exploiting ice has become lucrative business.

FAMILY DOCTOR By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

MENINGITIS IS NOT HEREDITARY

QUESTION: I often think back to the death of my sister at an early age from meningitis and wonder if the same fate still awaits me. Though I'm no longer a child, I'm concerned that I may soon show this disease. Is it possible that meningitis is an inherited condition?

ANSWER: Stop worrying. You are never going to suffer from meningitis merely because your sister died of it years ago. Certain forms of meningitis (and there are many) are highly contagious. Historically, there have been dreadful meningitis epidemics, but be assured that it never is a hereditary disease. Different forms of relatively common meningitis can be caused either by viruses or bacteria. The meningitis means an inflammation of the meninges (the three membranes that envelop a person's brain and spinal cord).

Make no mistake about it; meningitis, which occurs in the US mainly during winter, spring and autumn, is always an extremely dangerous and frequently life-threatening infection, as are its possible after-effects.

The disease is particularly serious and potentially deadly in the old and the very young, and in patients who have another disease at the time they develop meningitis. Most commonly seen in children under the age of 1, it may be even more serious in adults, especially those over 50 years old, for statistics reveal that when adults contract meningitis, 20 per cent to 70 per cent of them probably will die, even though they may be treated with effective, modern medicine. Therefore, when symptoms of the disease appear, treatment must be initiated as soon as possible.

Even with today's highly developed medical techniques, physicians still experience some difficulty in diagnosing meningitis. On the other hand, medical treatments for the many different types of meningitis are frequently quite effective. Several forms of newly developed, so-called "super antibiotics" or as some call them, the "super anti-infectives" (including the third-generation cephalosporins), are administered, usually with impressive cure rates. To be safe, as soon as the disease is suspected, yes, even before diagnosis is complete, many doctors start a patient on antibiotics often as a protective or prophylactic measure. While I never want to frighten anyone, I would be remiss not to tell you that neurological damage may occur in about 20 per cent of all patients who have been cured of meningitis itself. Among the most frequently experienced effects are varying degrees of mental retardation, seizures, and noticeable defects in the ability to hear, taste, smell, as well as other sensory activities.

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Australian eco-philosopher Charles Birch, co-winner of the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, feels that people's flawed values stem from materialism.



Values 'flawed': eco-philosopher Birch

Humanity needs to change perception of creation

By David Clark Scott

SYDNEY, (CSM): Religion's "Nobel Prize" goes to ... an ecologist? Charles Birch — an Australian "eco-philosopher" — is co-winner of one of the world's biggest cash prizes: the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion.

To save the planet, says Professor Birch, people's perceptions of God and creation need to change.

"There's something wrong about the way we're operating in the world. Industrialisation is despoiling the planet. We're annihilating 1,000 species a year. When you ask what is wrong, it comes down to there's something wrong about our values."

As a maverick biologist, Birch was an early prophet of environmental degradation. His pioneer work, "The Distribution and Abundance of Animals" (with H. G. Andrewartha), outlined in 1954 the implications of unfettered population growth.

"He's one of the two or three most distinguished ecologists in the world," says noted American ecologist Paul Ehrlich of Stanford University. "His first book made me want to call myself an ecologist."

The son of a Methodist minister, Birch also has a less-trumpeted reputation (until now) as a radical Christian theologian. For almost as long as he's been a scientist, Birch has engaged in the "adventurous reflection," as the Templeton announcement puts it, of questions relating to God and biological science.

Stroking a pet cat in his apartment overlooking Sydney harbour, Birch argues humanity's "flawed" values stem from a general view of the Earth as a material stage filled with objects created for man's comfort and advancement.

"Ever since the rise of science in the 17th century, the mode of the universe people have tended to support is a very materialistic mechanical model."

From protos to people, you have to look at them more as subjects rather than objects. Then you can see much more easily the relationship of God, not just to human beings, but to all of creation.

This perspective gives all life forms, not mankind alone, inherent worth. And while Birch welcomes the recent upsurge in public awareness of environmental issues, he chastens conservationists for con-

tinuing to campaign on the anthropocentric ethic: "Look after nature, then nature will look after us."

"I want them to be concerned for animals whether or not they're useful to us. They are subjects, not just objects," says Birch.

The \$64,000 question is: "Where did subjectivity begin in the whale of cosmic evolution?" Most biologists would say, "Oh, somewhere below mammals. Birds, maybe. Certainly not frogs..." There's a big problem in that approach, because you're saying mind and consciousness and all the characteristics of life have come out of something which is totally non-living, totally non-mental. The alternative approach is to say in some form or another the mental or the spiritual was right there from the beginning. That's a different perspective."

"I don't like the word 'power'. It immediately suggests God as the manipulator who could have intervened to stop the holocaust," God, says Birch, isn't a mechanic. Rather, God is "persuasive love. Love that persuades creation to become what it can be. But the paradox is, there's power in love. And in the end, the only power that matters is love."

Based on Birch's beliefs, solving the environmental problem requires a set of values reflected in political and economic systems, that acknowledge the worth of all beings. Christian churches have been lax in expounding these values, he says. "The advocacy of Western religious thought is most weak precisely here, where the aches of the world is most strong," writes Birch in a recent article.

Birch is entitled to spend his half of the \$535,000 Templeton prize, announced in March, in any manner he wishes. But recently retired from the University of Sydney, he makes a comfortable living as an author. His latest book, "On Purpose," exploring questions about God's purpose and directions for today's society, is due out in Australia shortly (No US publisher has been found yet.)

Birch plans to give the prize money away. A big chunk will go to the Claremont School of Theology in California. He credits "Process Theology," as espoused by the school's dean, John B. Cobb, with shaping his ideas. Another handout will go to a newly formed Geneva-based group working on Christian social and environmental ethics in Eastern Europe. And Birch wants to fund an annual lecture on human aspects of science and technology at the University of Sydney.

Birch shares the prize with lawyer Murlidhar Devadas Amte, who was recognised for work with the poor and lepers in India. The prize was established in 1972 by international investment manager John Templeton. Past winners include Mother Teresa, the Rev. Billy Graham, and novelist Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

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Sutherland's art retains traumas of tortuous form, and rich evocative mood

By Christopher Andreae

MANCHESTER, England. (CSM): Two works brought the British artist Graham Sutherland (1903-1980) a particular fame with his fellow countrymen. One was his design for a tapestry in Coventry Cathedral — the new cathedral built after the bombing of the older structure in World War II. For this, Sutherland produced a monumental, literate figure of "Christ in Glory." It is noteworthy as an unusual example of a serious modern artist attempting an ecclesiastical commission.

The other was his portrait of Winston Churchill. This — a strong evocation of Churchill's appearance and character — was immediately and furiously disliked by his subject. Kept by Churchill after its initial showing, hidden from the public, it was eventually destroyed.

Looking at the images Sutherland produced in the early part of his career, nobody could possibly have guessed at such notable later events.

At the outset he was an etcher and engraver, a maker of small, rural, and poetic black and white prints, full of a rather mysterious sense of strange places. He was in fact looking back to the etchings and sepia drawings of the 19th century artist Samuel Palmer.

To him, Palmer's pastoral landscapes, informed with a vivid affection for traditional religion, and a love of rather unusual natural details, had been a revelation. The "real" world was transformed by Palmer's feeling and imagination — and his style as an etcher, working all over the plate to achieve intense black tones and a kind of sparkling, twilit luminosity, ran contrary to Sutherland's training and appealed to him greatly.

Of himself and other engraving students at Goldsmith's College School of Art in London, Sutherland wrote: "As we became familiar with Palmer's later etchings, we bit our plates deeper." (In etching the artist uses acid to "bite" lines into a copper or zinc plate. The ink from which the print is made is dabbed or pressed into the etched lines.) "We had always been warned against 'overbiting.' But we did 'overbite' ... quite unrepentant at the way we punished and maltreated the copper."

This resulted in prints heavy with a close network of ink lines — an accumulated density of blackness — which Ronald Alley has characterised as "a dark, rich texture which suggests a kind of pulsation, as though the whole of nature was throbbing with inner life."

Paradoxically, Palmer, the consciously old-fashioned artist of the previous century, had offered Sutherland a means of rebellion. He was a sort of English Van Gogh in Sutherland's eyes.

But the traumas — and the art — of Sutherland's own century eventually invaded this strongly felt, but somewhat cosy, visionary world. Also, Sutherland's character was far too troubled, far too impressed by the fearsome and the cruel in nature and humanity, for him to go on making art out of the woodlands and cottages of Kent.

The fecundity and essential goodness of the earth, of the fields and trees, which was rooted in Palmer's vision — his pictures are earthy hints of Paradise — was never really Sutherland's. A dryness and sourness, an awareness of nature's weirdness, and hints of some underlying malevolence creep into his paintings.

He turned to designing — posters and pottery among other things — but, more importantly, Sutherland took up painting, and he and his wife discovered an unfamiliar landscape — in the Welsh county of Pembrokeshire — that provided him with just the kind of atmosphere and motifs that he needed. This was in 1934.

In a letter to a friend, Sutherland described eloquently some aspects of this Welsh landscape that came to preoccupy him for many years. Of one special discovery, a cove and beach by the banks of a narrow estuary which they found, he wrote: "I wish I could give you some idea of the exultant strangeness of this place — for strange it certainly is, many people whom I know hate it, and I cannot but admit that it possesses an element of disquiet. The left bank as we see it is all dark — and impenetrable damp green gloom of woods which run down to the edge of low blackish moss-covered cliffs — it is all dark, save where the mossy lanes (two each side) which dive down to the opening, admit the sun, hinged, as it were, to the top of the trees, from where its rays, precipitating new colours, turn the red cliffs of the right-hand bank to toves of fire. Do you remember the rocks in Blake's 'Newton' drawing? The form and scale of the rocks here, and the minutiae on them, is very similar."

The whole setting is one of exuberance — of darkness and light — of decay and life...

The right bank has fields above the cliffs, some covered with rip corn, others with gorse-clad pas-

ture.... Cattle crouch among the dark gorse.... It is no uncommon sight to see a horse's skull or horns of cattle lying bleached in the sand. Neither do we find that the black-green ribs of half-buried wrecks and the phantom tree roots, bleached and washed by the waves, exist but to emphasise the extraordinary completeness of the scene."

The cadence and rather archaic-sounding construction of Sutherland's prose shows how he was influenced not only by Samuel Palmer's pictures, but by his writings. All the same, as he gradually found himself, and produced works which are indebted to his own — like the charcoal and watercolour "Plants and Tree Shapes before Hills" of 1944 — many of Palmer's attitudes continued to contribute to his work.

In the Welsh landscape, for instance, he didn't just sit down in it and paint it. Like Palmer, he was more intent on bringing into play in his art the potency of memory and imagination. He walked a lot. Palmer did that in Kent as a young man, and dreamed as well. Sutherland made quick notes and drawings. But his paintings were the work of his imagination bringing his encounters with nature into the realm of line and paint, light and colour and form.

In the letter quoted above, he also remarked that he learned that "landscape was not necessarily scenic, but that its parts have an individual figurative detachment." This, in fact, a description of the elements of his paintings in the 1930s and '40s. His identification with natural forms in the landscape caused him to see them as visual metaphors for animal or human.

In the picture shown here, for instance, the foreground shape of an abandoned and worn part of some tree, twisted and hollowed, is like a skull. It brings to mind the skulls painted by Georgia O'Keeffe in New Mexico, enlarged and isolated in closeup, as if almost stumbled over the ground, and through and beyond them the land and sky.

This painting also brings to mind sculptures in the '30s and '40s in Britain, works by Henry Moore or Barbara Hepworth, in which they discovered the exciting effect of carving their block of wood or stone right to the other side. Moore was inspired by natural objects like bones and flints that he picked up and took home to his studio. So, too, was Sutherland. In fact the sculptural quality of much of Sutherland's painting, his thick, loose black lines curving around some intricately odd forms as a sculptor's chisel would carve it, can hardly be over-emphasised.



Picture shows: Alindogan and Kho, right, and guns and ammunition

Liz Alindogan lover nabbed: An agent of the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (EIIB), said to be movie actress Liz Alindogan's lover, was arrested by NBI agents in his house in Paranaque for alleged possession of high-powered firearms, ammunition and communications equipment.

Benjamin Yap Kho, 40, was with Alindogan when the lawmen raided his house at 6 am.

The NBI agents by special task force chief senior agent vice Bassey Four, armalite and carbine rifles, handguns, grenades, bullet and communications equipment in Kho's house.

The raid was made with a search warrant issued by Paranaque Judge Roberto Makalintal.

Kho will be charged with illegal possession of firearms. Alindogan and two others identified as Antonio Jemiriano and Andres Dacan are still undergoing investigation.

EIIB Commissioner Jose Almonte said Kho's house is their safe-house. He denied that the guns would be used in another coup attempt.

Almonte said the guns were intended to be used against smugglers or persons seeking to overthrow the government. He said the guns were covered with permits.

Trader, driver shot: A businessman and his driver were shot by four suspected New People's Army (NPA) hit men on Gen. T. de Leon St, Valenzuela. Shot were Rogelio Estrella, 25, manager of R&R Metal Casting in Valenzuela and resident of Bld 6 Jordan Ville Homes, Baesa, Quezon City, and Dante Daquiz, 50, also of Quezon City.

Investigators found several .45 shells and slugs apparently used by the suspects who escaped in a tricycle towards Sta. Quiteria, Caloocan City.

Investigators Pfc. Virgilio Villano and Pat Arnold Alabastro found that the shooting happened in front of Wilboroc and Co., along Gen. T. de Leon St at about 7:45 am.

Estrella and Daquiz, riding a blue Galant, were about to turn right when the four men approached and fired at them.

Although wounded, Estrella managed to pull out Daquiz from the steering wheel and himself drove the car to barangay Mapulung-lupa, some ten metres away from the crime scene.

"Astinado ang isang suspect dahil tinamaan ang gulong ng kotse," a witness told investigators.

Valenzuela police chief Maj. Carlos Tiquia said the tricycle used by the suspect in escaping was later found abandoned in Balintawak, Quezon City.

Hired killers kill Rizal housewife: A housewife was stabbed to death by two men believed to be hired killers who also shot her husband in their house in Taytay, Rizal yesterday.

Catalina Pagadian, 55, died from 12 stab wounds in different parts of the body. Her husband Fernando, 75, was rushed to the Angono General Hospital with a bullet wound in the chest.

Police said Fernando was awakened by barking of dogs. When he peeked through a window, one of the men shot him.

The two men rushed inside the house and stabbed Catalina who was helping her bloodied husband, police said.

The killers escaped.

Police discounted robbery was the motive and theorized that the attack on the couple may have something to do with a land dispute.

Probe school mess, House: The House of Representatives yesterday asked Education Secretary Isidro Carino to investigate anomalies allegedly committed by Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology (Erist) president Lydia Proleta.

Committee Chairman Rep. Carlos Padilla in his endorsement letter to the education secretary said the complaints of teachers and students against Proleta merit attention as the school is a government-subsidized institution.

Proleta is accused of buying computers, appliances and medical instruments, using Erist funds, for her personal use. She also reportedly authorized the procurement of 30 computers for the school worth P55,000 without public bidding.

Erist Faculty of Employees Union spokesperson Alvin Asuncion said they were questioning Proleta's extension of appointment as Erist president because of her age. She is 67 years old.

ound dead: A 13-year-old girl and four other people were found in separate places in Bulacan.

A PC report said all the victims had been stabbed in the neck andangled.

The bodies of the girl, a woman and a man were spotted by motorists on the expressway in barangay Lawa, Mercantay.

The two other corpses were both wearing denim pants and white T-shirts and were discovered between 25 and 30.

They were discovered in a Pulilan town.

Fishmeal factory ordered closed: A fishmeal factory in Bulacan has been ordered closed by the Department of Environmental Resources (DENR) for water and air pollution.

ENR ruled that the Aim fishmeal factory in barangay Sta. Marilao, has exceeded "allowable standards set by the Adjudication Board (PAB) following water sampling last week."

ilagan woman robbed: Five men in camouflage pants and T-shirts robbed a businesswoman of cash and jewellery totalling P20,000 Thursday night in barangay Tabang, Guiguinto, Bulacan.

Victim Norma Martinez, 35, told police the men broke into her home at 9pm and herded them into the bathroom with armalites, shotguns and a revolver.

The suspects ransacked all the rooms for more than a hour before fleeing, Martinez said.

Robber' shot dead: A suspected robber was killed in a shootout with PC soldiers in barangay Mambog, Bacoor, Cavite.

Killed on the spot with several gunshot wounds in the body was Rannie Aguilar, 29, of Bacoor, Cavite, said 233rd PC commanding officer Capt. Bernie Bondoc.

The suspect, Bondoc said, shot it would with a team of PC troopers led by T/Sgt. Jack Gutierrez.

The soldiers cornered Aguilar in his house at about 8pm but he refused to give up.

Investigating with Cheche Lazar

"THANK God it's Friday" may generally be a sigh of relief for a working week just over, the prospect of a two-day respite and late night-out for tired minds and bodies. But for the discriminating television viewer, it may also be an expression of anticipation for a date with *The Probe Team*, Channel 7's well-balanced investigative programme that tells the stories behind the limited scope of newspaper headlines.

At the helm of *The Probe Team* is Cheche Lazar, a broadcast journalist whose screen presence spell authority and a remarkable aura of smarts, responsible and efficient journalism. Cheche retains all that in person — the widow's peak, the Oriental patrician looks made more inspiring by the straightforward charm and undisguised femininity. The relaxed poise belies the 365-day — 20-hour energy that mobilizes her roles as chairperson of the Broadcast Department of UP College of Mass Communications, a professor, student for her Ph.D., and television producer and broadcaster. But on top of the heap is *The Probe Team*. It's a consuming passion," she says. "We took *Probe* as a challenge to make the show commercially viable, interesting and entertaining to our viewers. Personally, I was challenged to prove a lot of people wrong — those who thought that in investigative news magazine-programme is too heavy for investigative news magazine-programme is too heavy for televiewers to understand and patronize, hence a pit of mud to advertisers. So I said, let's see if we can buck the tide. Let's see if we can change all these perceptions. And that's exactly what we did."

Probe's proof at hand

What started as a challenge, as the cliché goes, is the *Probe* today, a commercial and critical success.

Thank God it is, the lady must be thinking considering that the first year was tough. "It was, in terms of getting public and station support, that was expected since we aren't like an entertainment programme that people look for. We were trailblazers in the sense that investigative reporting, though not a new concept and neither quite original, was new on local television. It was then a matter of proving a point that something people thought won't work, in fact, works."

Indeed, it works and now the lady herself is surprised. "I never doubted *Probe*'s success and even now it's no big deal when people tell me they watch it and that the programme is nice. But when people come up and say it's their favourite show and even cite episodes to prove their point, then I get very elated."

The weekly choice of topics is difficult. Nevertheless, Cheche and her team are given a free hand by the station (Channel 7) which she acknowledges as very supportive. "No questions not

Televiewer support is no less positively reflected by the ads that now fill up the slots. Yet the recognition given the show by prestigious award giving bodies makes the lady proud no less. "We were not really expecting awards. Yet, we were recognised by the Gawad-CCP last year. It was good, naturally, but we thought that was just about it. Imagine my surprise then when for the first time we got this recognition abroad."

Cheche, of course, is talking about the *New York International Film and Television Festival*, antiguous enough, they'd simply write us and say 'thank you for sending your entry' and stuff like that and that was all."

But it didn't turn out that simple. "Congratulations. You had been elected finalist" was what the message said. "So we were invited to go to New York to receive a plaque that shows we were indeed finalist."

"As I have said, we really don't expect awards. When international gathering of all television shows all over the world. The body chooses from a field of 11,000 entries picking shows that are given finalist and gold medal status. Last year *The Probe Team* emerged as the only pick from a Third World country and one of the only three in Asia which included Hong Kong and Japan.

"We were shocked," Cheche enthuses. "We were finalist in the news magazine category and that was something we didn't expect at all. We hear our colleagues in the industry say that *Probe* is a good show, that it's good, balanced and factual... these awards in itself. All these are compliments we're extremely proud of. We don't take any of them for granted."

Anybody who watches *The Probe Team* should know that among other things, the topics often are controversial. "That is incidental," Cheche says. "We don't do a story because it's controversial. We do it because, first, it's interesting to a large number of people, then it will be something that people will have a stake in. That is the first parameter. If it happens to be controversial, it is probably because we look at all the sides of the issue. We make everybody air his side. We don't confine it one place and one source. That's the lazy way. Instead, we get one party to talk about his side and then get another one to air his, plus possibly a third and fourth. That's the only way we can come up with a well rounded story."

The weekly choice of topics is difficult. Nevertheless, Cheche and her team are given a free hand by the station (Channel 7) which she acknowledges as very supportive. "No questions not



signs of apprehension form them as far as our choice of topics is concerned. I appreciate that."

An hour of *Probe* on television may be a smooth, continuous probing of the headlines. Yet the "easy" impression the viewer gets just doesn't illustrate the efforts that go with each episode.

"We hold editorial meetings every Monday where we discuss possible stories, and suggestions. People suggest stories to us based on our own readings of dailies and what people tell us would be good stories. That entails constant brain-storming."

In spite of the preparations, the efforts to consistently come up with an unbiased, well-balanced presentation, an investigative format like *Probe*'s inevitably can't please everybody. Televiewers may be unanimous in praises but some people involved in a controversial story itself don't always nod their heads in agreement as far as the presentation of a particular side is concerned. "Part of the game," Cheche states. "We've been taken to court. Once by a group of aquarium fish exporters. They sued us claiming that because of a story we did, they lost business in Japan and the United States. Moreover, they accused us of doing other things which allegedly affected their business negatively. We won the

case. Of course, it's now on appeal but we won the case which I never doubted though we did spend a quite a number of days and weeks preparing for the case."

One gets curious how a lady like Cheche Lazar reacts to an attack to her and the show's credibility. Maria Ressa, director of *Probe*, general manager of *Probe* Productions, and as Cheche describes her, "the brain behind the show, who conceptualizes all there is to it," knows quite well. "She was furious," she says of her producer upon learning about the case.

If Cheche has managed

beautifully in her professional and family life, she gives part of the credit to her being a Filipino woman who she holds in high esteem. "I think the Filipina has a pre-eminent status in this country. Unfortunately, not all of them can say that for themselves. There are those who are still burdened by all these stereotypical ideas of what a woman should be. Things like being at home and serving the man; she being never aggressive lest she be viewed as non-Filipino. I think she is wrong. I believe that the Filipina woman is capable of and has tremendous potential which she can make use of and these stereotyping is the only thing that is pulling her down. Otherwise she is equal if not better than her male counterpart."

"Personal, I've never looked at my sex as a hindrance. Only 18, I've been told repeatedly that being a female in a predominantly male world of television can be a

liability. I've never fallen for that simply because I've always thought of myself as a competent person. In fact, some people might even use the word intimidating. But I've always thought of myself as simply trying my best in my chosen profession. Neither has my nationality posed any problem for me. It may complicate things a bit due to the typical expectations a lot of people hold for the Filipina, but I'm extremely proud of it. I am a Filipino first and I consider that an asset. Being a Filipino woman, I am an asset. And that makes it a double asset."

Mother, wife and Filipino women

Typical of a successful career woman, Cheche has to find ways dividing her time between career and family. She is doing fine but she admits it is with great difficulty. Even a lady like Cheche Lazar admits *Probe* has changed her. "For the better, or though," she says. "Now I have this greater awareness of my responsibility as a broadcaster. We've always talked about it. We've always said many things about the broadcaster's responsibility. But most of the time you simply mouthed them. Now, I feel the burden of that responsibility. Because we are successful; because people watch us, to some extent, to be leaders in this field, there is a burden of responsibility that we must undertake. We must use our craft to its greatest good, and then spread it. Not in terms of propaganda but in the most balanced way possible. You have to handle that well. If you don't then you are misusing government funds and that's like engaging in corruption or like maltreating your children or destroying your environment. You just have to handle it well, you'll turn a very good tool into a destructive one."

The future

Probe success has enabled Cheche Lazar to venture into an expansion plan adding people on the staff and taking on new projects like *BizNews*, a programme about business which may be televised on Channel 4 within the next three weeks. Then there are the special projects like the one in collaboration with *Carter* and *DOST* which is a once-a-year thing. Aside from *Probe* as a regular show, there is *Teka Teka Mardon Muna*, a tele-marketing show aired every Monday, at seven in the morning on Channel 9, another first of its kind in local television.

There seems to be a very promising future for the *Probe* Team. The glow on Cheche Lazar's face confirms that. Her female grit and competence plus the other intangibles that make her what she is, mean she guarantees more.

Money talk

MRALEGRE, impeccably attired in a suit of deep blue, entered the room. He was followed by a petite uniformed maid carrying a tray. She set an enormous breakfast beside Lyn. Lyn then quickly retired, closing the door behind her.

Lyn was too nervous to eat. She drank coffee and nibbled on a pastry as Mr Alegre graciously asked if she would mind. If he had anything momentous to tell her, he was certainly saving it.

Feeling that she should be relieved, Lyn was irritated, but when Mr Alegre graciously asked if she would mind taking some dictation, she smiled sweetly and went to work. An hour of this and Mr. Alegre glanced at his watch, said he had to leave for his home in Tagaytay. It was late August and he would not be using the house again until next summer holidays. There were certain instructions concerning the closing and maintenance of the place which he had to give the help.

Would Lyn like to come along, continuing her dictation? She would.

When they were about to leave, Mr Alegre asked if she would care to look around the penthouse. Ask if walking on clouds they moved over whisper-soft carpets through a living room large enough to swallow two apartments like her own. They drifted down softly illuminated hallways, glancing into spacious sultry bedrooms four of them, all in unique shapes, each with its own lovely decor. Four bedrooms — and five baths! A handsome dining room, the study, a large kitchen, servants' quarters, a garden terrace, with every piece of furniture exquisite, while throughout there was a pleasant, muted atmosphere, an air-conditioned silence which excluded the whole dreary world of tort below.

Marvelous, marvelous! thought Lyn, but she said little because Mr Alegre was so indifferent that she did not want to seem stupidly unsophisticated.

The day was sticky-hot, but in the air-conditioned limousine it was cool and serene. Like magic, a tiny bar appeared and Mr Alegre produced chilled, a ready-made cocktail. Sipping, he spoke carelessly of his winter home in Florida, showing Lyn a snapshot, moving on to other subjects, such as his cruise around the Pacific, stopping at such exotic places as Hawaii, Tahiti, Hongkong and Tokyo.

Then he began to dictate but, to Lyn's relief, he had hardly begun when they arrived at the house in Tagaytay. They would over a long, twisting drive past farms and a tennis court before they halted in front of charming house which rambled endlessly in all directions. Expecting an austere formal mansion, and a revolver.

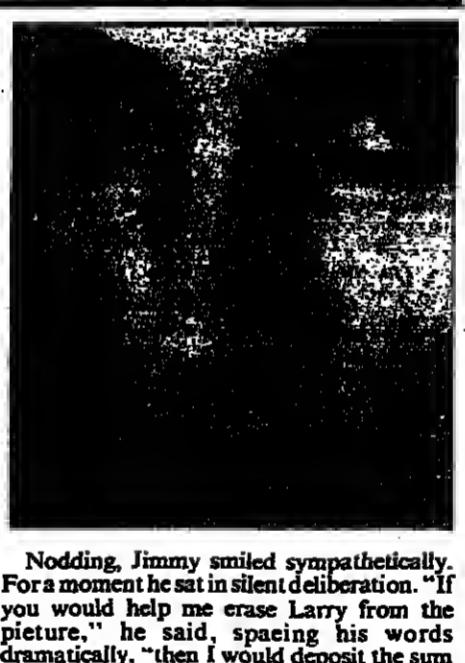
The suspects ransacked all the rooms for more than a hour before fleeing, Martinez said.

Robber' shot dead: A suspected robber was killed in a shootout with PC soldiers in barangay Mambog, Bacoor, Cavite.

Killed on the spot with several gunshot wounds in the body was Rannie Aguilar, 29, of Bacoor, Cavite, said 233rd PC commanding officer Capt. Bernie Bondoc.

The suspect, Bondoc said, shot it would with a team of PC troopers led by T/Sgt. Jack Gutierrez.

The soldiers cornered Aguilar in his house at about 8pm but he refused to give up.



Nodding, Jimmy smiled sympathetically. For a moment he sat in silent deliberation. "If you would help me erase Larry from the picture," he said, spacing his words dramatically, "then I would deposit the sum of P100,000 to your personal account. Naturally, I would not do this until the day we are married, on the very day."

"A hundred thousand!" Lyn exclaimed. "Oh my, oh my," she sighed, mentally rubbing her hands together, spending furiously. "But Larry would never give me up, even if I wanted him to. And he's dangerous. He might kill me, he would surely kill me."

"Then, as I said, we'll have to — erase him. It's the only way out."

"You can't mean..."

"Lyn, if a man is going to act like an animal, then he should be treated like one. In self defense, we can only destroy him before he destroys us."

Lyn was shocked, revolted, but morbid curiosity and a hundred thousand pesos made her want to know the rest of it.

She said, "You've been thinking about this a long time, haven't you Jimmy?"

Fashion passion



Barge Ramos designs a handwoven barong tagalog in cotton polyester with ilugao-inspired black pechera pattern (L), while TONI GALANG creates a contemporary chaquetilla- and barong ensemble in ecru justi embroidered in black, and paired with black velvet chemise dress (R).

Barge Ramos designs a Muslim-inspired formal gown in black, tangerine and gold beaded silk, complimented by TONI GALANG's black dyed justi barong tagalog with handpainted Philippine flora motif.

Barge Ramos designs a beaded evening jacket and slim ankle-length skirt in fuchsia, inspired from the southern Muslims (L), accessorized with "excavated gold" earrings, necklace and bangles by St. Cyr. TONI GALANG designs a black dyed justi barong tagalog (R), handpainted with the moon and the stars.

ALL that is Filipino in terms of clothes, accessories and shoes take centre stage during the "Barong Filipino" fashion gala. Designers Barge Ramos and Toni Galang

prepared a fantastic collection of Philip pine contemporary wear for the '90s inspired from the rich indigenous Philippine handwoven and ethnographic prints. The

justi, the pina, the sinamay, the Iloko cloth, and other tribal weaves are transformed into beautiful dress and elegant barong tagalog for men.

These two designers occupy a niche in Philippine fashion history for their dedication to bringing out the best in everything that is Filipino.

The hardworking congressmen

In the Philippines, Congress is supposed to be the house of the representatives of the people. They are the body that is supposed to be the voice of ordinary citizens. This is the reason why we refer to the members of the congress as Representatives.

In recent years, the congress has been rocked by scandals one after the other. There is this member of the congress who was involved in gun smuggling, while others have allocated for themselves the quota for the exports of young coconuts. The bickering among congressmen has not stopped. And, so, congress has always been compared to a circus.

The problem starts with the Speaker of the House of Representatives. It seems that Speaker Mitra is highly involved in politicking. He has worked so hard to improve his chances of one day becoming president. And so, a lot of compromise has to be worked out. In our local parlance, this is nothing but horse-trading.

Take the case of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Bill. It is so defective, yet Speaker Mitra battled for the bill in order that the administration can have something to bring up for the US State Department's approval of a working democracy.

I remember Speaker Mitra in one of the media forums asked why the CARP bill had to be rammed our throats, when all they have to do is to work out a better version. And he answered that a defective law can be remedied by some amendments. This is not logical. But just the same, the bill was passed. And disaster is not far behind. This has become controversial, that we can only blame Speaker Mitra for all its future effects in our lives.

Some mysterious means seem to be the order of the day in Congress. Take the case of one congressman from the South. The reason he is for industrial land development is that he is known as a realtor in his province. He fight tooth and nail to make industrial estate an "in" thing. This will increase his sales.

Or take the case of another congressman from the

south. He ranks among the poorest in the lot. Yet, notwithstanding his silence in congress, he is building a P4 million house in his hometown.

And then there's the wife of a congressman, this time from the north. She is known for her expensive way of life. Now she buys real estate by the dozens. She has quite an investment in posh Makati villages. She seems to have a lot of money, she buys houses 6 at a time.

Mrs Congressman is known for her big time spending. When she was still married to a contractor, the former husband got the shock of his life. He was charged P40,000 for the maids' one year uniform. It was designed by a very expensive designer.

Now, what about another congressman? He seems to be involved in practically all the illegal activities in his province. Could this be the reason why his wife and the governor's wife are not in talking terms? The feud must be that great!

Notwithstanding, there are also hard working congressman in our midst. Take the case of Congressman Salvador Escudero of the 2nd district of Cagayan. He is hardworking. Every weekend, he is in his hometown. He makes sure that even the farflung barangays are visited during the weekend. He starts his day at the crack of dawn, walking up the mountains, crossing rivers and seas to visit and interact with the people. He is always in touch with reality. This former Secretary of Agriculture seems at ease with the people in the barrios. He also enjoys their company.

In the case of Alberto Lopez, he has a secret weapon in the person of his wife Emily. Alberto, who seems bent on running for the Vice Presidency as the running mate of Senator Joseph Estrada, works hard to improve the livelihood of his constituents. It is a far cry from his flamboyant way of life, many years ago.

Angelique thought of going into singing but Baby O'Brien who was her manager went to Malaysia to manage a band, that was about the same time when Channel 2 opened. David Nye and Angelique auditioned for the management. Angelique brought her tapes along the power-that-be liked what they saw and heard, so she was accepted.

"We were the first people at CBN. The concept of TV Patrol was already there but it was not yet implemented until March when Freddie Garcia came over."

Angelique is single and to a lot of people, that is surprising. "When I was younger, I aimed to pattern my life with that of my mother. She was still single when she practiced her profession but she believes that once a girl gets married, family life should come first and foremost. She got married at the age of 23. At that time, I also felt I'd get married at 23. I only worked at a career because I was still single then and I said that once I get married, my priority would be to have a family and be a companion to my husband. But fate decreed otherwise."

She had a boyfriend when she was 23 years old. But the relationship didn't work out because of certain differences between them. First, he was of a different race. Second, his religion differed from that of Angelique. Third, he had to go to the States and it was hard to maintain a long-distance-affair. These were certain obstacles. Angelique's family, for instance, is a devout Catholic and he was Jewish.

"So, several questions popped up. How do we share things together? How will our children be brought up, etc?" Without our having to say it, time just solved the matter for us. We just drifted apart. Besides, I was enjoying my life with my singing and my stint on TV broadcasting. So I said I'll get married at 25. But I didn't have a boyfriend at that age so I said I'll settle down when I am 27 years old. But here I am at 28 and still single." Now, her philosophy is, don't think about it and it will come like the rain. Marriage, she means.

Physically, Angelique is still as charming as ever. But she considerably grown slimmer. Is it love or Mann?

"Money?" she pretends innocence, then laughs. "Basically, I try to eat healthy foods. If I know that a particular dish is fattening, I eat just a little of it. I do a lot of exercise and that couple with my work, here I am, slender as a reed."

Angelique has some old-fashioned notions when it comes to personal relationships. She does not go for live-ins.

"When you choose to live with someone, it's a union that needs to be blessed by God for it to be lasting and fulfilling. We are just transients here on earth and we should make the most of it with the blessings of the Almighty."

On the liberated woman: "I believe that women have the right to exert themselves, to excel in whatever field if they have the talent and should not be discriminated upon because of their sex. Since I have three brothers I'm used to dealing with the opposite sex. I like to be treated like a lady, but if I can't find it or if it's not there, I won't look for it. I won't sulk or rant just because I can't find something who'll treat me like a lady."

On the other hand her guest Julio Diaz will assume the role of hardened criminal. They will fall in love and live together, and decided to reform. He will try so hard to find a decent job while she stays at home as a devoted housewife. Life for them will be unbearable, both of them having no source of income. Julio will finally find a decent job, but fate will have it that his past is still there to tragically haunt him.

Bobby Zornack will be the other guest in "Minsan Pang Mailap ang Tadhana." Abbo de la Cruz directs from the script of Joan Chiong and Felix Ngo. Gerry Guillen Bagat executive produces.

Beauty

A perfect base

Diaz and Barretto reform

YOU don't need fancy tools to apply foundation like a pro! The best tools are simple ones: a sponge, your finger and a few Q-tips. Use a finely textured sponge to smooth on foundation. Porous sponges may leave an uneven finish and they'll definitely absorb — and waste — foundation. To start, apply a dot of base to your forehead, nose, just above your upper lip, chin and each cheekbone. To guard against applying too much base, and to reduce the pressure on your skin, lightly sweep the foundation up and away from the centre of your face with the sweep of your fingers. Use your fingers to work foundation in around eyes and nose, and too smooth it in at the edges of your face. A moistened Q-tip works for removing any excess around lips, nose or brows. To freshen up later in the day, mist the skin's surface with water, or apply a bit of foundation with damp sponge to areas that light strikes — under your eyes, at the brow, on top of cheekbones.

Cool tips

for hot weather:

1. Refresh puffy, tired eyes with cotton balls soaked in cool water or chilled chamomile tea. Put one on each lid, put up your feet, relax for a minute or two.

2. If wearing moisturizer and base seems like too much, mix a little of your moisturizer with your foundation.

3. For a longer-lasting coverage without the heaviness of foundation, apply a tinted moisturizer and dust with loose translucent powder. To set, gently mist face and Evian water; powder once more.

4. It may seem like a good idea to tone down sunburned skin with foundation or powder, but be careful — both may contain irritating fragrances. If you want some coverage, opt for a fragrance-free powder — it won't sink into burned skin, which means less potential for irritation.

IN the episode "Minsan Pang Mailap ang Tadhana" of "Seiko TV Presents...Gretchen," Gretchen Barretto, the sex goddess of Philippine movies and television, will once again portray the role of prostitute.

On the other hand her guest Julio Diaz will assume the role of hardened criminal. They will fall in love and live together, and decided to reform. He will try so hard to find a decent job while she stays at home as a devoted housewife. Life for them will be unbearable, both of them having no source of income. Julio will finally find a decent job, but fate will have it that his past is still there to tragically haunt him.

Bobby Zornack will be the other guest in "Minsan Pang Mailap ang Tadhana." Abbo de la Cruz directs from the script of Joan Chiong and Felix Ngo. Gerry Guillen Bagat executive produces.

If you've got these qualities which Angelique likes in a man, then, don't hesitate to give vent to your feelings for her — you have to love her first of all, you have to be responsible and should take care of her with love and affection. You, of course, should know when to leave her alone (if she's not in the mood); you have to be outgoing, and someone who'd try to understand others and adjust to them.

From the provinces

CALAUAG, Quezon: The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has earmarked P2.4 for infrastructure projects this year in this coastal town, it was reported.

Mayor Julio U. Lim said that the Quezon II engineering district headed by District Engineer Medardo F. Panigan said that the funds allotted for infrastructure projects on other Quezon towns are as follows.

Atimonan and Lopez towns, P3.8 million each; Gumaca and Guinsayang town P2.9 million; Alabat, P2.6 million; Quezon, P2.4 million; Paridel, P2.1 million; Tagkawayan, P1.8 million; and Perez, P1.7 million.

BACOOR, Cavite: Five armed men held up the Bacoor branch of the Bank of Philippine Islands on the Gen Aguilano Highway in this town and made off with some P900,000 in cash.

The police investigation showed the two of the holdup men entered the bank by posing as bank depositors. Once inside, they poked their guns at the security guard identified as Marie Naparan, 45, and divested of his .38 caliber revolver.

The three other robbers who were outside disarmed the other guard identified as Joenaid Abad, 33, of his .12 gauge shotgun.

SGT Pablo Ramirez, Bacoor police chief investigator, said that the six bank employees, the manager, and four bank depositors were ordered by the two armed men to lie face down on the floor.

The robbers escaped towards Las Pinas aboard a 1979 red Lancer car with an improvised plate and with serial number NPA-914.

BAGUI CITY: The days of "ghost" and "15-30" employees in various government agencies and offices are numbered. Patricia Sto. Tomas, Civil Service Commission (CSC) chairman, said here yesterday.

Sto. Tomas told public and private school officials attending the 1990 Educators Congress at Teachers' Camp here that she had created CSC personnel audit teams to check the number of permanent, temporary and casual workers and officials in the government.

"Ghost" employees are non-existent government workers, while "15-30" employees are those who do nothing but collect their pay on the 15th and 30th day of the month.

Sto. Tomas said the CSC made the move after receiving many reports on the presence in some government firms of "ghost" or non-existent employees.

She said the presence of these employees raised to 1.5 million the number of government workers.

She said "ghost" and "15-30" employees to be found by CSC teams will be dropped immediately from the government service.

"It appears that the US would like us to accept a mixture of grants and loans, in the development assistance and food aid packages," Manglapus said.

He said, "Our position has always been that all of these should be in grants."

"The US also holds the position, that whatever they give out to be counted as their normal assistance, but we maintain that whatever is given under the agreement should be over and above the normal levels that they have given us in development assistance and food aid," Manglapus said.

He also pointed out that the revised figures prepared by the inter-agency committee also counted the so-called "lost opportunities" resulting from the non-waiver of the Berry amendment in the procurement of supplies for US bases facilities from RP.

The Batangas City project was launched under the Philippine-German sister-city relationship programme administered by the Department of Local Government.

The youthful officials from Lagenfeld Mayor's Office Youth Affairs Bureau will stay in Batangas City for two weeks. They will confer with their counterparts in the local government on youth development programme for the two cities to undertake. Later, formal plans will be drafted on the matter.

The Batangas City-Lagenfeld City project was launched under the Philippine-German sister-city relationship programme administered by the Department of Local Government.

Dimacuha who is still in Germany for the signing of the sister-city agreement, disclosed during a call to his office staff in Batangas.

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The Batangas City-Lagenfeld City project was launched under the Philippine-German sister-city relationship programme administered by the Department of Local Government.

President Corazon Aquino greets war veterans confined at the Veterans' Memorial Medical Centre in Quezon City, where she inaugurated a renovated ward. She later unveiled the marker of a room dedicated to her slain husband, former senator Benigno S. Aquino Jr., who was confined there after a 40-day fast during the Marcos regime. The President was guided around the hospital by Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, Dr. Sergio Brillantes, hospital director, and Asuncion Lazaro, head nurse.

Albertito Lopez

Miguel Romero

in them only the beauty and goodness that God created in them as individuals.

If you've got these qualities which Angelique likes in a man, then, don't hesitate to give vent to your feelings for her — you have to love her first of all, you have to be responsible and should take care of her with love and affection. You, of course, should know when to leave her alone (if she's not in the mood); you have to be outgoing, and someone who'd try to understand others and adjust to them.

Tribute to war vets

President Corazon Aquino greets war veterans confined at the Veterans' Memorial Medical Centre in Quezon City, where she inaugurated a renovated ward. She later unveiled the marker of a room dedicated to her slain husband, former senator Benigno S. Aquino Jr., who was confined there after a 40-day fast during the Marcos regime. The President was guided around the hospital by Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, Dr. Sergio Brillantes, hospital director, and Asuncion Lazaro, head nurse.

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FARWANIYA, behind Holiday Inn, very close to main road. Sharing accommodation, furnished with all facilities including tele., preferably for a small Indian Muslim family. Tel. Res. 4743758, after 4.00 pm. (AT2-52819-3)

CITY centre, near Sheraton. Western oriented person wanted for room in renovated traditional house. Sharing of all facilities. KD100 all inclusive. Available from 1st July. Tel. 2418017, 2 - 4 pm or after 7 pm. (AT2-52834-3)

OMARIYA, near Airport Road, one room for a family or working girls. Rent KD 50 including water and electricity. Tel. Molaoud, 4736004. (AT1-52813-3)

ABBASIYA, sharing accommodation available for two months. Tel. Hoshim, 4316705, 7 to 8pm. (AT1-52817-3)

SHARING accommodation for three bachelors or a small family in a CAC flat near Cinema Firdous at Sharq. Rent KD90. Tel. Mr. Musa, 2448690. 9 am - 9 pm. (AT6-52799-3)

SALMIYA, opp. Mawaseh Hospital near bus stop. One room in 2 bedroom flat for a female or bachelor. Rent KD 70/80. Tel. 5718812. 9am - 1pm, 5 - 9pm. (AT1-52818-3)

FARWANIYA, furnished accommodation, from 1st June for a small family for three months. Rent KD 75 pm. Tel. Mr. Sajid Sherazi, Office: 5523000 ext 447, 7am to 1pm (Saturday to Wed.). Tel. 4761942. (AT1-52816-3)

FARWANIYA, behind the Kuwait Airways office, furnished single bedroom flat with tele. facilities, for a bachelor to share with an Indian bachelor. Tel. Tewari, (Res) 4716167, (off) 4842888 ext. 4147 (off). (AT6-52790-3)

SALMIYA, near KG/Indian School. One room with tele. facilities for Indian bachelors/ couples to share with an Indian family. Rent KD65. Tel. Mr. Sharma, 5611539, 10 am - 12 noon, 4 - 8 pm. (AT2-52825-3)

HAWALLI, a comfortable one bedroom apartment, fully furnished with garage underneath the block opp. Andalus Cinema for rent from June 1 till end of August KD 170 monthly. Tel. 4836237, after 1pm. (AT1-52805-3)

SALMIYA, Plaza Street. Flat fully furnished, 1 bedroom, 1 saloon and 1 hall. Tel. 5735859. (AT6-KH-TM-3)

CITY centre, near Sheraton. Western oriented person wanted for room in renovated traditional house. Sharing of all facilities. KD100 all inclusive. Available from 1st July. Tel. 2418017, 2 - 4 pm or after 7 pm. (AT2-52834-3)

WANTED transport for a lady from Nugra 7:15 am to Juleeb Al Shiyookh and back at 2 pm. Tel. 2634189 after 5 pm. Friday; please call in the morning. (AT6-52800-3)

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I. Virji Shant Hiralal, holder of Indian passport No. C 121044 issued in Hyderabad on 17/10/1983 embraced Islam and changed my name to Mohammed Kasim Guruja. (AT1-52603-3)

I. Ramkrishna Aroubisa, holder of Indian passport No. V 013044 issued in Hyderabad on 17/10/1983 embraced Islam and changed my name to Dhanpal Hiralal. (AT1-52803-2)

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NAME CHANGE

L'HERESA Frederick Peters, holder of Indian passport No. R340122 embraced Islam and changed my name to Fatima. (AT2-52831-3)

WANTED transport for a lady from Nugra 7:15 am to Juleeb Al Shiyookh and back at 2 pm. Tel. 2634189 after 5 pm. Friday; please call in the morning. (AT6-52800-3)

دعاة العصافير

3 Filcheck events set for June 8

IN the observance of the 92nd year of Philippine independence, the Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (Filcheck) has lined up several activities on Friday, June 8 at the Messilah Beach Club in connection with the Pista ng Pinoy, a fun-filled whole day Pre-Independence Day celebration being organised by the Philippine embassy.

From 7:00 am during the civic parade, the club will hold the opening ceremony of this year's Inter-Commercial Team Chess Tournament. Ten teams have so far confirmed their participation to the tournament, namely: Hatid-Ligaya, Door-to-Door Forwarders, Kirby Building System, Al Wazzan/Castrol, Al Massayef Est., JM Int'l, Al Rashed Freight, Far East Bank, City Int'l, Eschen, Refrigeration Industries, Al Salam Hotel and Kabayan Restaurant. Deadline for the submission of entries has been extended till Friday, June 1 to give time to other interested parties to complete their teams.

At 9:30 am, the club will hold a one-day tournament - the Rakan Chess Blitz which will feature five-minute chess blitz games - with the top three finishers for both groups (rated A & B) receiving a trophy and valuable gift items, donated by Mahmoud Younis Al Messad, managing director of Rakan Electronics Co., distributor of Rakan Video Home Computers.

As an added attraction to the event, the club will feature the "Beat Kasparov and Win-a-prize Contest", sponsored by Adawlah Universal Electronics, distributor of Kasparov chess computers in Kuwait. The contest is open to all Filipino chess lovers, male or female, children and adults. Valuable prizes await the lucky winners of each category.

Club president Edward Racaza is calling on all officers, team captains and managers to meet on Friday, June 1 at 10:00 am at Kabayan Restaurant to discuss the club's forthcoming activities in conjunction with the June 8 affair. Changes in the tournament rules will also be discussed on that day. Attendance is compulsory.

Meanwhile, all "Checkmates" have been asked to report to Filcheck headquarters to secure their IDs and uniforms. Those who have not yet committed themselves to play in any team must see the club president immediately. For details call 3402405, Edward or Sammy.

Rose lawyers receive report

CINCINNATI, May 26, (AP): Lawyers for Pete Rose received a pre-sentencing report yesterday in his income-tax case. Rose's spokesman said.

"We have absolutely no comment to make on it," Barbara Pincka said.

Prosecutors and Rose's lawyers have 10 days to object to any factual statements in the report before it goes to US district Judge S. Arthur Spiegel, said Pat Crowley, supervising officer in the US Probation Office here.

Rose pleaded guilty before Spiegel in April to filing false federal income-tax returns for 1985 and 1987. He faces six years in prison and a \$500,000 fine.

Federal sentencing guidelines require the confidential report on a convict's offense, criminal history, education, employment history, alcohol or drug abuse and financial situation, Crowley said.

Lewis to skip US athletics meet

RALEIGH, North Carolina, May 25, (Reuters): Six-time Olympic champion Carl Lewis will not participate in the US National Championships, June 12-16, with the Goodwill Games at its annual convention last year.

The decision apparently means Lewis will not be eligible for the Goodwill Games in Seattle in July unless the Athletics Congress (TAC) grants him an exemption from its rule that failure to participate in the Nationals bars an athlete from competing at the Goodwill Games.

"We never planned to run at the TAC championships," Tom Tellez, Lewis' longtime coach, told Reuters by telephone from his Houston office.

Tellez said Lewis had not trained for six months during the winter while working on his autobiography and would not be prepared to run in the meeting. TAC, the sport's US govern-



Gooch's ton stops Kiwis in 2nd game

England win one-day series

LONDON, May 26, (Reuters): Captain Graham Gooch led from the front with an unbeaten 112 as England beat New Zealand by six wickets in the second one day cricket international yesterday.

England scored 213 for four from 49.3 overs in reply to New Zealand's 212 for six from their 55 overs to win the two-match series on faster run rate. New Zealand won the first international at Headington on Wednesday.

Gooch, who has been in splendid form for his county Essex this season, took full advantage of a let off at second slip after he had scored only one.

He edged Richard Hadlee, who again bowled magnificently with the new ball, to Mark Greatbatch who spilled a straightforward chance.

The miss was cruel luck for both Hadlee, bowing with a cracked bone on the little finger of his right hand, and Greatbatch, who had held the New Zealand innings together with 111.

Hadlee retired hurt after scoring nine when he was hit on the hand by paceman Chris Lewis but returned to bowl his full quota of 11 overs and bowed.

Gooch, though, was his

all the batsmen in taking two for 14.

New Zealand manager Ian Taylor said the 38-year-old all-rounder had not been ruled out of the first Test at Nottingham, starting in two weeks' time.

"The surgeon says he should be able to play but it will be a question of him putting up with the pain," Taylor said.

Batsman Ken Rutherford was another New Zealand casualty, retiring hurt when he was struck over the left eye by Lewis. He was detained overnight in hospital for observation.

Greatbatch, who won the first international for New Zealand with an unbeaten century, hit 10 fours and a six from only 130 deliveries.

But even he looked uncomfortable against fast bowler Devon Malcolm, who enjoyed a memorable first one-day international with two for 19 from his 11 overs.

Crucially, Malcolm enjoyed better support than Hadlee, who was the only New Zealand bowler to look at all dangerous.

He bowled David Gower for four, putting the enigmatic left-hander's revived England career in jeopardy, and then bad Robin Smith caught behind for five.

Gooch, though, was his

phlegmatic best, crashing 15 fours in a masterly innings lasting 205 minutes and taking 152 balls.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND innings

J. Wright c Small b Malcolm

A. Jones run out

M. Crowe c Russell b Lewis

M. Greatbatch c Smith b

Malcolm

K. Rutherford retired hurt

R. Hadlee retired hurt

M. Priest c Smith b DeFreitas

I. Smith not out

C. Pringle c Small

Extras (lb 2 w-3)

Total (for 8 wickets) 212 — Innings

closed

Fall of wickets 1-25 2-33 3-53 4-174

5-202 6-212

Bowling DeFreitas 11-1-47-1, Malcolm 11-15-19-2, Lewis 11-1-51-1, small 11-0-59-1, Hemmings 11-2-34-0

ENGLAND innings

G. Gooch not out

D. Gower c Hadlee

R. Smith c Smith b Hadlee

A. Lamb lbw b Pringle

A. Stewart c Morrison b Priest

J. Russell not out

Extras (lb 7 w-5 lb-1)

Total (for 9 wickets) 49 3 overs

Fall of wickets 1-52 2-15 3-29 4-104

Did not bat C. Lewis b DeFreitas

G. Small b Hemmings, D. Malcolm

Bowling Hadlee 11-2-34-2, Pringle

9-3-53-1, Millrow 9-1-47-0, Morrison 9-3-51, Priest 11-2-34-1

Result England won by six wickets



Stanley Cup

Edmonton Oilers captain Mark Messier holds the Stanley Cup over his head as he passes through the crowd at the Edmonton International Airport as they return after beating Boston Bruins in the final. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fittipaldi seeks 2nd straight Indy victory

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, May 26, (Reuters): Brazilian Emerson Fittipaldi, who has won the hearts of American racing fans, goes after his second consecutive Indianapolis 500-mile (800 km) motor race tomorrow feeling "the odds are behind me" to win again.

Fittipaldi, 43, will start from the pole position in a front-row that has two other drivers from different continents. Starting next to Fittipaldi will be three-time winner Rick Mears of the United States. Arie Luyendyk of the Netherlands will be on the outside of the front row.

No driver has repeated in the 500 since Al Unser won back-to-back races in 1970-71. Other winners of consecutive races were Wilbur Shaw in 1939-40, Mauri Rose in 1947-48 and Bill Yukovich in 1953-54.

"I think it is great," Fittipaldi said about the odds favouring him. "Now is the time to be a repeat winner."

He is teamed now with Mears and Danny Sullivan, also a former race champion.

In qualifying earlier this month, the two-time world champion set records for both one lap and four laps around the 2-1/2-mile (4 km) Indianapolis Motor Speedway Oval. His fastest single lap was 225.575 miles per hour (363.017 km) and his total average speed was 225.301 mph (362.576 km).

Mears, who set qualifying records the two previous years, wound up in an identical Penske Chevrolet. After qualifications, he ran the fastest laps with full fuel loads. He topped Thursday's final carburetion day runs with a lap at 222.750 mph (358.471 km).

Luyendyk, who got a Chevrolet for the first time this year, has been fast all month. He knocked 1986 winner Bobby Rahal off the front row with his qualification run.

Joining Rahal in the second row are two Andretti's, Mario and son Michael. Mario, who won in 1969, will start his 25th race. All three will drive Lola-Chevys.

Al Unser Junior, whose tangle with Fittipaldi on lap 199 of last year's race created a dramatic finish, A.J. Foyt and 1985 winner Sullivan comprised the third row. Foyt has won four times and at 55 is starting his 33rd consecutive 500.

John Andretti and Teo Fabi will start in 10th and 23rd spots in March-Porsches, while Roberto Guerrero and Al Unser, the other four-time champion, drive March-Alfa Romeos in their first Indianapolis race.

Average speed of the field is 217.437 mph (349.921 km). Average age of the drivers is 36.7. There are 10 Chevrolet engines, 10 Buicks, six Cosworths, three Judds, two Porsches and two Alfa Romeos.

KPBL 2nd Conference set for June 15

THE 'Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League (KPBL)' is in its final preparations for its forthcoming 2nd-Conference basketball volleyball competitions set for June 15, 1990 at the Kaifan Secondary High School Gymnasium. This was disclosed by the 'KPBL Secretariat' who added that the games are intended to be a "post-celebration of sorts" of the Filipino community's 92nd Philippines' Independence Day (June 12, 1898) celebrations.

A total of 30 teams are expected to sign up and beat the June 4 "deadline" for submission of entries."

Leading the pack in the All-Filipino Men's Basketball Division is the Ista-Con. Champs KPC who look as the "team to

beat" in lieu of its power-house intact line-up. The challengers are as follows:

Al Ghani-Jahra; Al Ghanim-Mangaf; Al Wayle Trading; Al Widad; Capcom; Hasawi Eagles; Kalexco; Kay & Associates; Kellogg's Plant Services; Kirby Building Systems; Kuwait Hotels Co Bayan; Kuwait International Hotels; Kuwait Regency Palace; N.I.C.; Nissan Al Babtain; Overland Transport Co; Pizza Italia; Trend Wave.

In the Open/Expatiates' Men's Basketball Invitational, the list of entries are as follows: BES Engineering; Gulf English School; RP Team A; RP Team B; Kuwait Sea Sports Club; Universal American School.

Two of the eight allotted slots in this division are still unoccupied

and the organizers have announced that entries are welcome on a first come-first serve basis.

In the ladies basketball volleyball competitions, registration is still under way, and as in the All-Filipino Open/Expatiates' Division, deadline of submission of entries is June 4, 1990.

In a related development, the 'KPBL Secretariat' has announced that an "all important meeting" is set for tomorrow 8:00 pm... at the Mabuhay Restaurant, Fahed Al Salem St, Kuwait City. This is concerning the KPBL's full participation in the forthcoming Philippines' Independence Day celebrations, which are being held under the auspices of the Philippine embassy.

Colombians tie WBA title fight

CARTAGENA, Colombia, May 26, (Reuters): Luis Mendoza salvaged a draw with a final-round comeback against fellow-Colombian Rubin Palacios in their fight for the vacant World Boxing Association (WBA) junior-featherweight title today.

The aggressive Palacios, ranked number two contender by the WBA, built up a strong points lead in the middle rounds of the fight against the top-ranked Mendoza.

All officers of the KPBL Secretariat, members of the KPBL Board of Governors, as well as team representatives of the participating teams are requested to attend the said meeting.

The topics to be discussed are as follows:

1. Participation in the 'Civic Parade

2. The 'beach games' amongst the KPBL 2nd-Conference participating teams and other Filipino organizations here in Kuwait.

3. Basketball Exhibition sa Messilah

4. Marathon

5. Yugugana Messilah

6. KPBL Open Darts Tournament (June 15).

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Phoenix blaze their way past Portland

PHOENIX, May 26, (AP): The Phoenix Suns made sure the Portland Trail Blazers had no more comeback magic last night.

Tom Chambers scored 15 of his 24 points as the Suns built a 30-point lead in the first half and went on to beat the Trail Blazers 123-89, cutting their lead to 2-1 in

the Western Conference finals.

Phoenix, which blew a 22-point lead in Game 2 at Portland on Wednesday night, plays host again tomorrow in game 4 of the best-of-7 series.

The Suns took a first-quarter advantage of 40-18, the most opening-period points ever allowed by Portland in a

playoff game. Phoenix built 61-31 and 70-40 leads in the second period en route to a 71-43 halftime margin.

The Trail Blazers got no closer than 25 in the second half. The suns' largest lead was 103-57 with 1:06 left in the third quarter, putting Portland in jeopardy of losing by the largest margin ever in an

NBA playoff game.

Minneapolis beat St Louis 133-75 in 1956, but the Trail Blazers' reserves used

an 18-0 run in the fourth period to make

the final score more respectable.

It was Portland's worst playoff loss

ever and the second-biggest postseason

victory for Phoenix.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Alcohol ban

ROME, May 26, (Reuter): Italian authorities will ban sales of alcohol whenever they deem it necessary during the World Cup soccer finals starting to two weeks time. "It will be a tactical World Cup. A day without alcohol does everybody's health good," Interior Minister Antonio Gava said.

Herbin sacked

SAINT-ETIENNE, France, May 26, (Reuter): French soccer club Saint-Etienne have sacked coach Robert Herbin after a season of poor results, club sources said today. He will be replaced by his assistant, Christophe Sarramagna.

Steibin injured

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, May 26, (Reuter): West German Davis Cup player Carl-Uwe Steibin may be forced to miss next week's French Open because of a shoulder injury.

Alloccchio wins

MARINA DI PIETRASANTA, Italy, May 26, (UPI): Italian speed specialist Stefano Alloccchio won the eighth stage of the 73rd Tour of Italy yesterday while Italio Gianni Bugno maintained his lead in overall standings.

Romania player

MADRID, May 26, (Reuter): Romanian midfielder George Hagi has signed a four-year contract with Real Madrid worth 300 million pesetas (\$3 million), Spanish newspapers reported today.

Golf courses

PALM SPRINGS, California, May 26, (UPI): Japanese companies have purchased two desert resort golf courses in separate deals totalling \$27 million. People involved in the transactions said yesterday. The two courses are the Rancho Mirage Country Club, which was purchased by real estate investment concern GGS, of Tokyo, for \$14 million; and the Desert Dunes Country Club, which was purchased by Higashikudo California Ltd, an affiliate of Higashikudo Co. Ltd of Japan, for \$13 million.

Ritzman ahead

CORNING, New York, May 26, (Reuter): Alice Ritzman broke away from a logjam of six players with a 68 yesterday to take a two-stroke lead after the second round of the Corning Classic women's golf tournament.

Atlantic Classic

MARIETTA, Georgia, May 26, (Reuter): Larry Mize posted a three-under-par 69 to go with his first-day 66 to grab a one-stroke lead ahead of Howard Twitty after the second round of the million-dollar Atlantic Classic golf tournament yesterday.

Four-way lead

WENTWORTH, England, May 26, (Reuter): A last hole birdie earned Spaniard Jose-Maria Olazabal a share of a four-way lead as he continued his superb form in the first round of the British PGA Golf Championship at Wentworth yesterday. Olazabal's late afternoon six-under-par 66 pulled him level with Eduardo Romero of Argentina, Tooy Johnson of Zimbabwe and Briton Paul Curran at the head of the 144-man field.

Three-day match

MANCHESTER, England, May 26, (Reuter): Zimbabwe's three-day cricket match against Lancashire ended in a draw yesterday. Scores: Lancashire 326 for six declared and 310 for three declared (S. Richard 80, J. Crawley 76 not out, G. Lloyd 76, N. Speck 74); Zimbabwe 376 for six declared and 78 for two (W. James 52).

W. German manager

FRANKFURT, West Germany, May 26, (AP): West German soccer manager Franz Beckenbauer yesterday chided some of his players after they had criticised his lineup for a World Cup warmup match against Czechoslovakia.

English fans

SPOLETO, Italy, May 26, (Reuter): Two English soccer fans in Italy for next month's World Cup will be deported for kicking and punching railway police while drunk, police said yesterday. The two 23-year-olds, both Liverpool fans, received a six-month suspended sentence from a court in Spoleto, south of Rome, and will be expelled to the next few days.

Women's tennis

STRASBOURG, France, May 26, (Reuter): Semifinal results in the \$150,000 women's tennis tournament (prefix number denotes seed): Mercedes Paz (Argentina) beat Karine Quantre (France) 6-1, 6-1. Ann Grossman (US) beat 3-Manon Bollegra (Netherlands) 2-6, 6-0, 6-2.

Gullit 'fit'

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands, May 26, (AP): Dutch newspapers yesterday pronounced soccer Rudi Gullit "ready for the World Cup" after his role in AC Milan's victory in the European Champion Cup. AC Milan's 1-0 win against Benfica on Wednesday marked Gullit's second full match since recovering from a series of operations on his right knee.

Giants tame Pirates

Reds blank Expos



Reds' Jack Armstrong during his bid to become NL's first eight-game winner. (Reuter wirephoto)

PITTSBURGH, May 26, (AP): Kevin Mitchell hit three home runs in a game for the first time in his career and drove in five runs as the San Francisco Giants overpowered Pittsburgh 9-3 in a National League baseball game last night to knock the Pirates out of first

Mitchell, who led the Majors with 47 homers last season, raised his season total to 11 homers and 20 RBIs. His second home run came off Bob Kipper with two men on in the fifth and gave the Giants a 7-1 lead.

After the Pirates scored four runs in the sixth to get within two, Mitchell hit a solo home run off Bob Patterson in the seventh.

The last Giants player to hit three home runs in a game was Darrell Evans, against Houston on June 15, 1983.

Steve Bedrosian came on in the ninth and gave up a long home run to Bobby Bonilla with one out. The Pirates then put runners on first and third with one out but Jeff Brantley relieved and retired the side for his fourth save.

Mitchell, Will Clark and Jose Uribe all hit home runs in the first four innings off starter Walt Terrell (1-4).

The Pirates have lost eight of their last 10 games to fall one-half game behind Philadelphia in the National League East.

Reds 5, Expos 0

Jack Armstrong allowed three hits in eight

innings to become the NL's first eight-game

winner as Cincinnati beat Montreal.

Armstrong dropped his league-leading

ERA to 1.61, struck out seven and walked

none. Randy Myers got the last three outs,

allowing one hit, for the Reds' sixth shutout of

the season.

The only other eight-game winner in

baseball is Oakland's Dave Stewart.

Armstrong (8-1) beat St Louis 4-0 on May

19 and has pitched 22 consecutive scoreless

innings.

Eric Davis snapped a scoreless tie with an

RBI single in the sixth.

Results

American League		1
Detroit	2	
Minnesota	16	0
NY Yankees	6	3
Baltimore	12	3
California	5	4
Oakland	5	2
Toronto	3	1
National League		0
Cincinnati	5	
San Diego	5	4
Philadelphia	5	8
St. Louis	4	1
Houston	AT	PPD.
Chicago Cubs		



Senna and his team check the McLaren Honda. (Reuter wirephoto)

Senna claims 45th pole

MONTE CARLO, May 26, (Reuter): Ayrton Senna enthralled a packed and appreciative crowd today when he spoke his own qualifying lap record again and claimed pole position for tomorrow's Monaco Grand Prix motor race.

The 30-year-old Brazilian threaded his McLaren round the twisting hills and dips of the 3.28-kms street circuit in a time of one minute and 21.314 seconds to improve on his previous record, set on Thursday, by four-tenths of a record.

It was another electrifying performance by Senna and secured for him the 45th pole position of his career and his third in succession in his adopted European home in the Mediterranean principality.

But the Brazilian will share the front row of the grid for tomorrow's race with his great rival and former McLaren teammate, world champion Alain Prost.

The Frenchman, seeking a victory to equal Briton Graham Hill's record of five Monaco triumphs, improved considerably on his time in Thursday's opening qualifying session yesterday that his hopes of regaining the world 500 cc title had vanished — just as motorcycling's ruling body acted to make Grand Prix bikes safer and cheaper.

But the Australian, who has campaigned for speed reductions for greater safety, declared he was not convinced by the International Motorcycling Federation (FIM) measures.

The FIM announced it was

revising weights for 500 cc

Grand Prix bikes next season

and lowering fuel octane levels.

The FIM management council

said the frequency of

accidents in 500 cc races,

and the cost of competitive

factory machines was worrying as was the number of entries in these events.

FIM Secretary-General Guy

Maistre said safety and costs were

the main factors involved.

"The ratio between power and weight will certainly be safer," he said.

"There has been a terrible

increase in the cost of racing in

the last few years. We think it is

now time to take measures to

lower costs, and also to make

racing more safe," he said.

"I feel very sorry for Spain and Spanish golf because I think they

deserved better than this."

Ballesteros has said in recent weeks he felt it important for the event

to be staged in Spain in 1993 because of the contribution made by Spanish players in the biennial Europe-United States match.

The Ryder Cup was played at the Belfry in 1985 and 1989. Europe

won it in 1985, kept it by winning again in 1989 and retained it after 14-14 tie last year.

Ballesteros' partner in the last two Cup events, compatriot Jose

Maria Olazabal, said the decision was good for all parties.

He added that he was not worried about Ballesteros' commitment at future Ryder Cups.

"I won't have to ask him for 100 per cent commitment because I

know him. I know he gives 110 per cent every time he is on the golf

course. He wants to kill everybody," Olazabal said.

English Cricket

LONDON, May 26, (Reuter): Results of three-day English County Championship cricket matches which ended yesterday.

At Southampton: Hampshire v Essex match drawn. Essex 315 for four declared and 210 (M. Giddens 62 not out, N. Foster 60, J. Chappell 56) for five declared. Hampshire 252 for six declared and 102 for four; Hampshire and Essex 4 points each.

At Chelmsfield: Derbyshire v Kent match drawn. Derbyshire 252 for six declared (K. Barnett 141, B. Roberts 124 not out, C. Johnson 102 and D. Keeling 55, G. Miller 54) and Derbyshire 24 points. Kent 108.

At Trentham: Somerset v Sussex match drawn. Somerset 500 for five declared. Sid 313 (C. Wells 99 not out) and 256 for four declared (N. Leatham 108, M. Speight 83 not out). Somerset 7 points. Sussex 4.

At Chelmsfield: Derbyshire v York match drawn. Derbyshire 252 for six declared (K. Barnett 141, B. Roberts 124 not out, C. Johnson 102 and D. Keeling 55, G. Miller 54) and Derbyshire 24 points. York 108.

At Trentham: Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire match drawn. Nottinghamshire 325 and 265 for four declared (M. Benson 96 not out, G. Cowdrey 80 not out, M. Fleming 45 not out). Glamorgan 255 for no wicket declared and 314 (A. Butcher 50, R. Davis 47 for 97, E. Devillers four for 69). Kent 19 points. Glamorgan 4.

At Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Northamptonshire match drawn. Nottinghamshire 325 and 265 for four declared (N. Fenton 19 not out, A. Fordham 74, R. Bailey 54 not out). Nottinghamshire 25 and 342 for two